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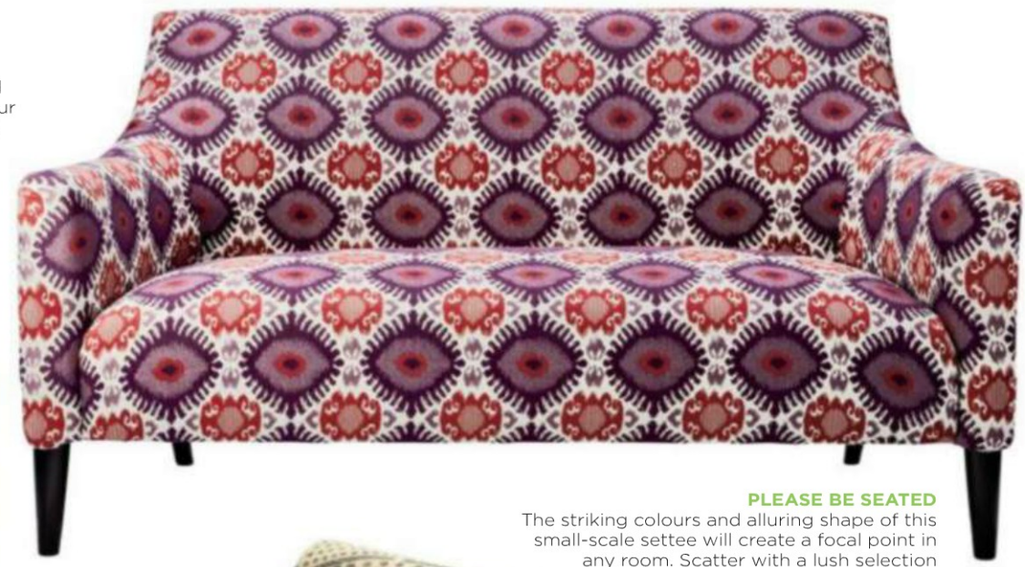

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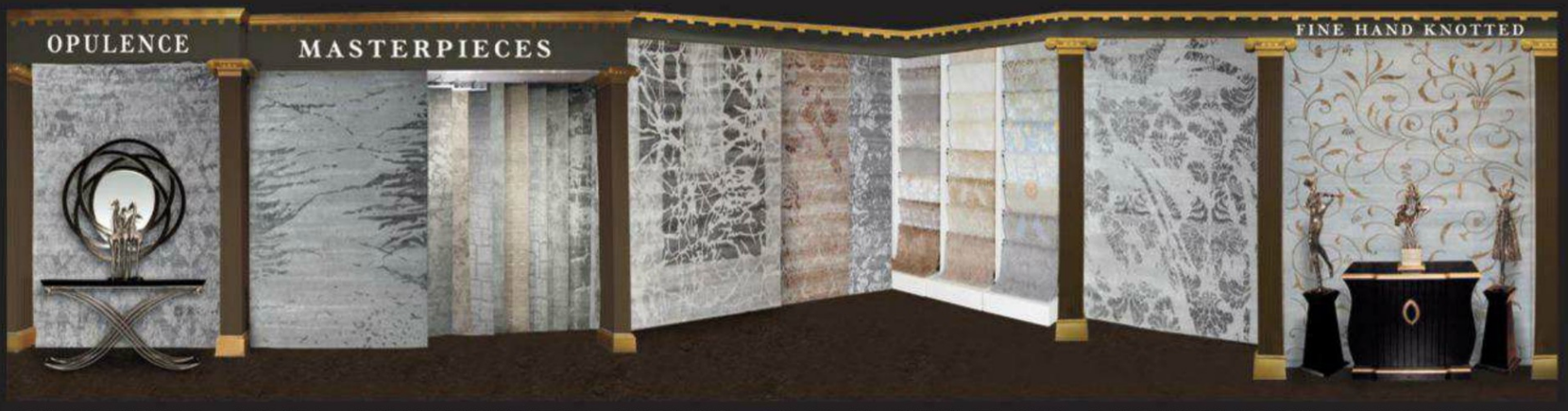

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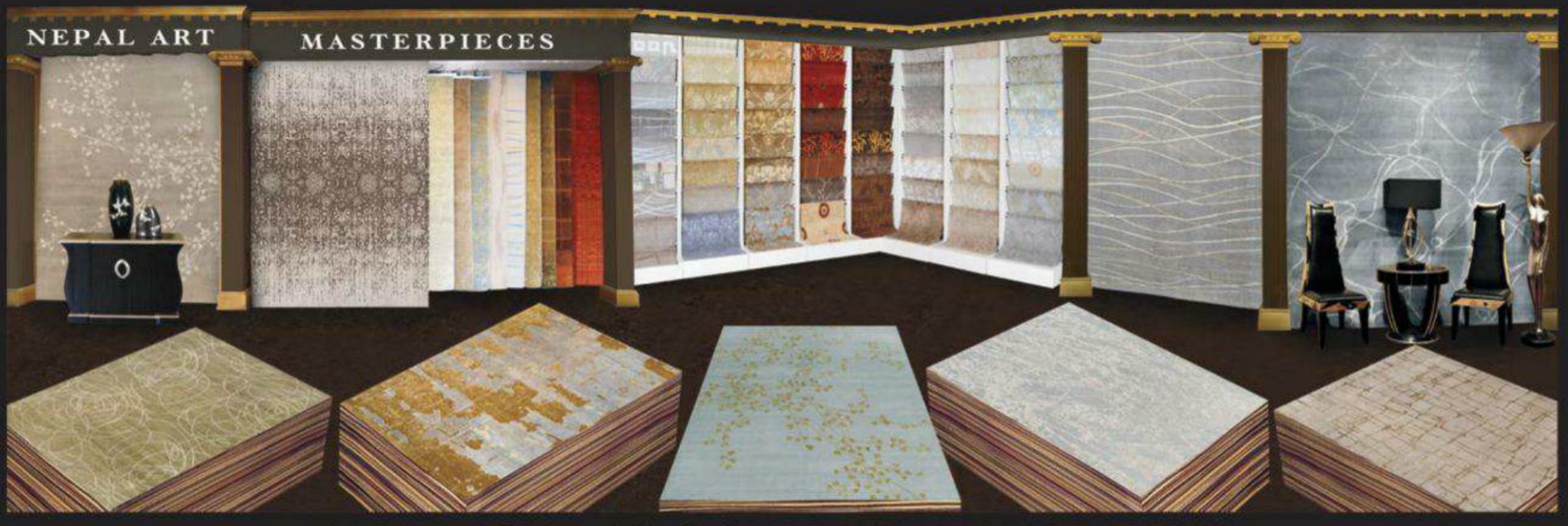

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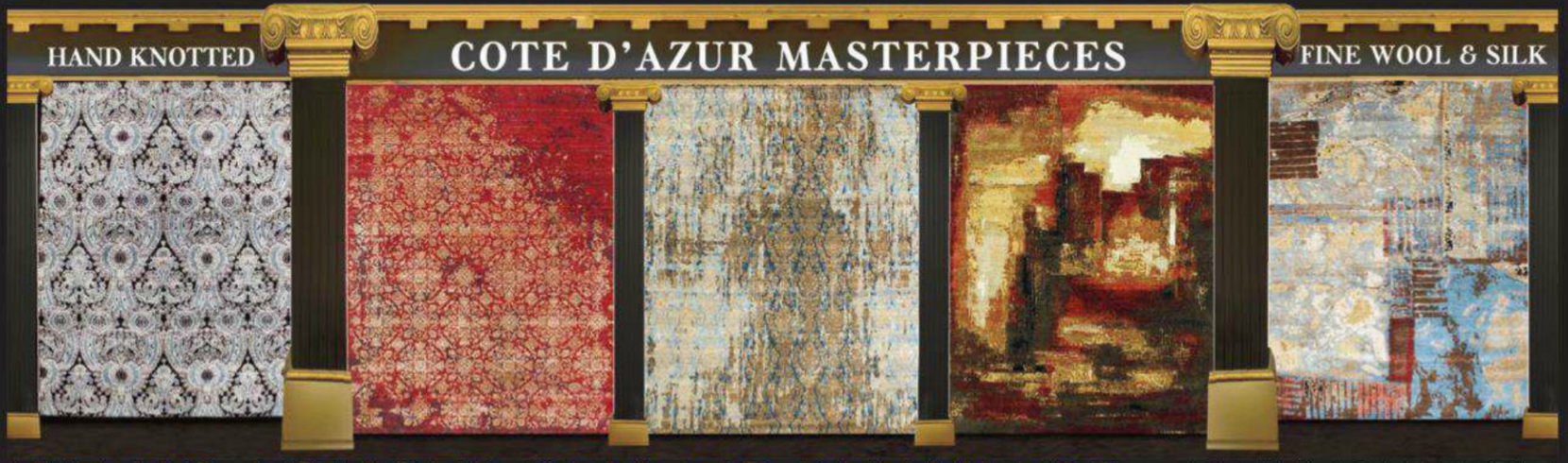

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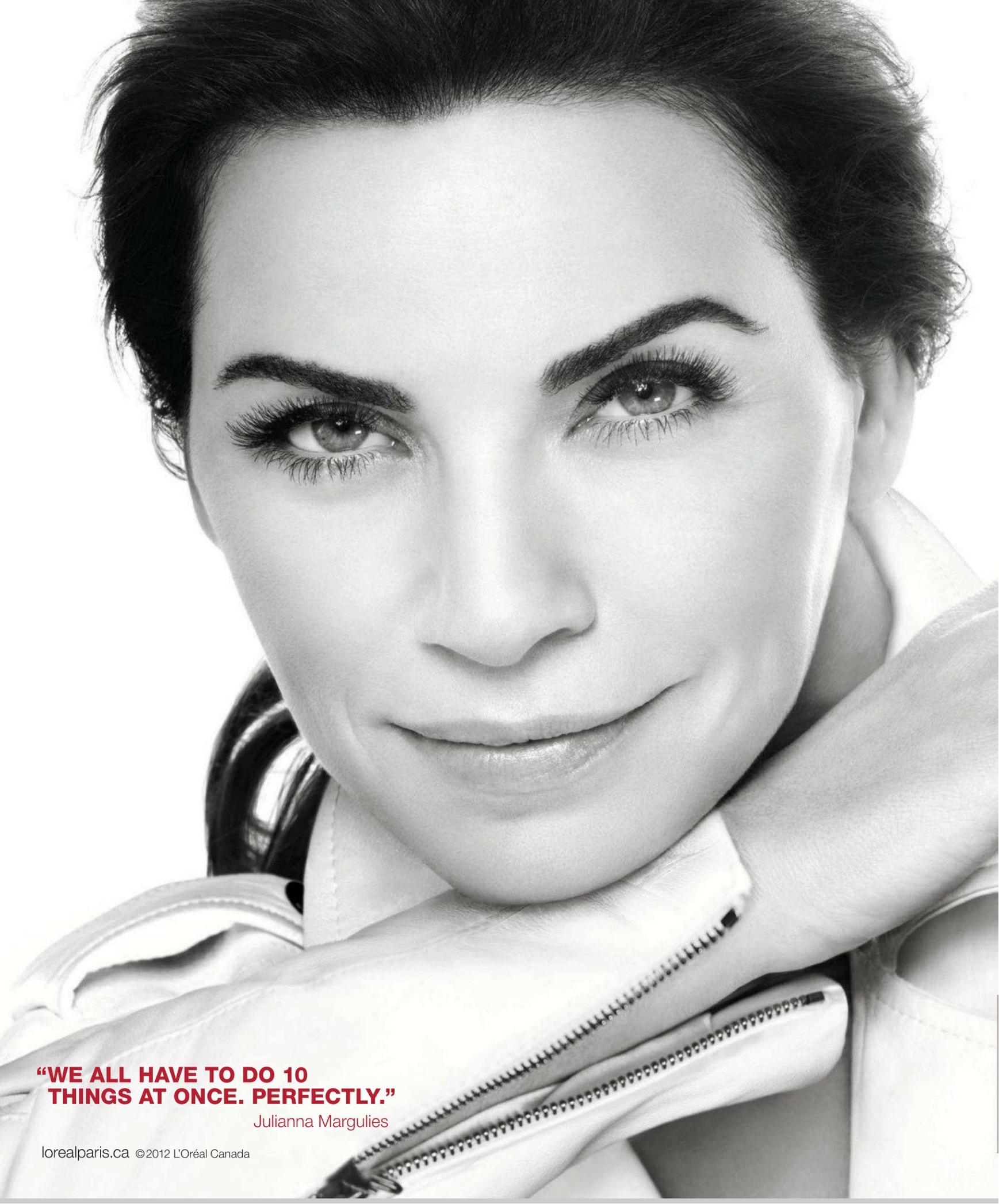
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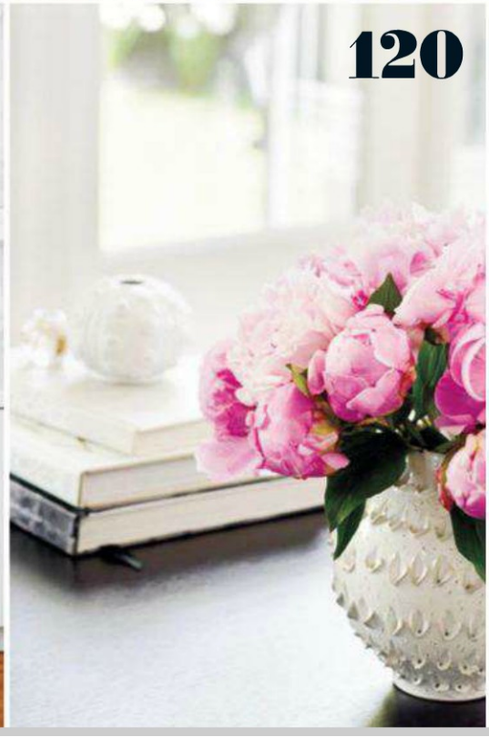

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MAY 2012

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Growing up, instead of sharing secrets and gushing over our crushes, my best friend and I were debating paint colours. Since the age of 12, Lara McGraw and I have painted walls together (always in various shades of grey, grey and then more grey), decorated rooms together and loaned furniture and artwork back and forth between bedrooms, first apartments and forever homes. That bond between us has never wavered, and our addiction to decor continues to this day with both of us (not surprisingly!) working in the field – she as a designer and one of Canada's best prop stylists, and I as the editor-in-chief of this wonderful magazine. We still communicate nearly every day, exchanging emails and phone calls asking for advice and chatting about ideas and inspiration.

Coincidentally, I noticed a theme when reading over the stories in this issue: that of friendships enriched by a love of decorating and the strength of collaborations. For instance, jewellery designer Shereen de Rousseau called on her long-time friend, designer Nancy Riesco, to transform her home office into a functional, cheerful one (see "Eye Candy," page 96), while Toronto realtor Kara Reed relied on designer Carol Reed, her close friend and former sister-in-law, for sage advice when it came to buying the right condo in the right location – and, of course, decorating the three-level space (see "Agent's Delight," page 128). And then there's Lara, whose magic touch with styling has graced our pages many times over (you see her work every month in our Food & Drinks feature). She played a major role in designing and decorating the Los Angeles home of another of our childhood friends, entrepreneur Shereen Arazm, one of the judges on *Top Chef Canada*. Shereen's glamorous historic home is featured both on our cover and in "Growing in Love" on page 110.

The moral of the story is that collaborating with people you trust brings out the best in you – and your home. And hey, isn't that what friends are for?

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

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Left:
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6 Drawer Chest

Right:
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GOT IT **ALL**

The March 2012 issue is fantastic – cheery, fun, colourful, funky, comfortable and artsy. It has it all, although I'm not a huge fan of the verging-on-ubiquitous cowhides.

BARBARA HAGREEN,
VIA EMAIL

what's your **VIEW?**

How do you **decorate** your **walls?**

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How do you use your **outdoor space?**

60%	As an extension of my living space
30%	As a garden
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GREAT **MINDS...**

I couldn't believe my eyes when I finally had the chance to look through the March 2012 issue of *Style at Home*. I've had the same wallpaper and desk that are featured on page 68 chosen for nearly a year now to be the new addition to my very empty and nearly non-existent office. The space is planned out, but as they say, Rome wasn't built in a day. I'm going to have to hop on my ideas much quicker from now on, before I start seeing them in magazines!

LYNN DELAURIER, VIA EMAIL

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S@H READERS TWEET

"Picked up the latest issue of *Style at Home* magazine. Feeling very inspired!"
@k8senkow

"Great interview with Barbara Barry in the *Style at Home* March issue. Love her elegant aesthetic. So inspiring!"
@simplybn

"Industrial chic in a Gastown loft. I shot this story for the current issue of *Style at Home.* Love this space."
@PineconeCamp

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we love to hear from you!

Email us at letters@styleathome.com or write to us at *Style at Home*, Letters from Home, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont. M2N 6S7.

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD

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DATE WITH *style*

Don't miss *Style at Home* editors and designers on television and at these events.

Watch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on CBC's *Steven and Chris*. For air dates and times, check your local listings or go to cbc.ca/stevenandchris.

Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin on set with Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman.

WE'RE ON TV!

Catch design editor **Jessica Waks** on Citytv's *CityLine*. Check your local listings for showtimes or go to citytv.com/cityline.

WISH YOU **WERE HERE!**

Senior style editor **Ann Marie Favot** takes a quick break from shopping to pose for a picture with Bullseye, Target's furry mascot.

Style at Home editors were thrilled to get their hands on some of the beautiful pieces at the Jason Wu for Target collection's pop-up shop in Toronto on Feb. 23.

PHOTOGRAPHY, MIKE DELUCA/TC MEDIA (JESSICA)

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"I tell my clients the secret to achieving beautiful hair that lasts is to use products that don't contain sulfates, harsh salts or heavy waxes. These ingredients can cause your hair to become fragile, flat or dull. Without them, hair can become stronger, avoid weigh-down and maintain colour purity longer. If your hair is flat, coloured or damaged, a great step towards having beautiful, healthy-looking hair is to use a 100% sulfate-free haircare line such as Ever by L'Oréal Paris Hair Expertise."

Eric Del Monaco

Eric Del Monaco, Official Hair Artist and Colourist for L'Oréal Paris. Owner and Principal Stylist, Del Monaco Hair Studio, Toronto.

A KEY TO MAINTAINING HEALTHY-LOOKING HAIR.

"Getting and maintaining healthy hair is a must for dramatic runway styles. Intense styling practices such as curling, relaxing, straightening (such as Brazilian smoothing) and blow-drying use heat and products that can damage your hair. Damaged hair can leave the cuticle open, leaving the hair fiber vulnerable to external aggressions. This emphasizes the importance of maintaining the natural proteins of the hair by using a sulfate-free system such as Ever from L'Oréal Paris. All of the Ever products are free of harsh sulfates, are 100% vegan and contain natural botanicals to help maintain healthy-looking hair even after aggressive styling! They're specifically formulated to be gentle on overprocessed hair and provide hydration (EverCrème), strengthening (EverStrong), smoothing (EverSleek) and colour protection (EverPure)."

Because you're worth it.

L'ORÉAL PARIS

SHOPPING GUIDE

WHICH OF THESE EVER SYSTEMS IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

CARE FOR COLOURED HAIR: EVERPURE

EverPure provides optimum protection for coloured hair to reduce fading for 32 shampoos. Its formula contains a UV filter which helps to protect and condition hair for long-lasting colour purity. Enriched with rosemary botanical oil, it invigorates the senses. Available in Moisture and Volume shampoo and conditioner formulas.

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EverCrème, L'Oréal's first moisture-lock system, provides the ultimate moisture for dry or very dry hair. Its triple-action conditioning formulas contain botanical camelina oil and natural omega-3 and 6, which leave hair luxuriously soft and shiny without weigh-down.

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EverSleek's haircare system guarantees 48-hour anti-frizz protection for frizzy, unruly hair. Enriched with sunflower oil extract, EverSleek nourishes and smoothes even the most sensitive strands, leaving hair manageable and shiny.

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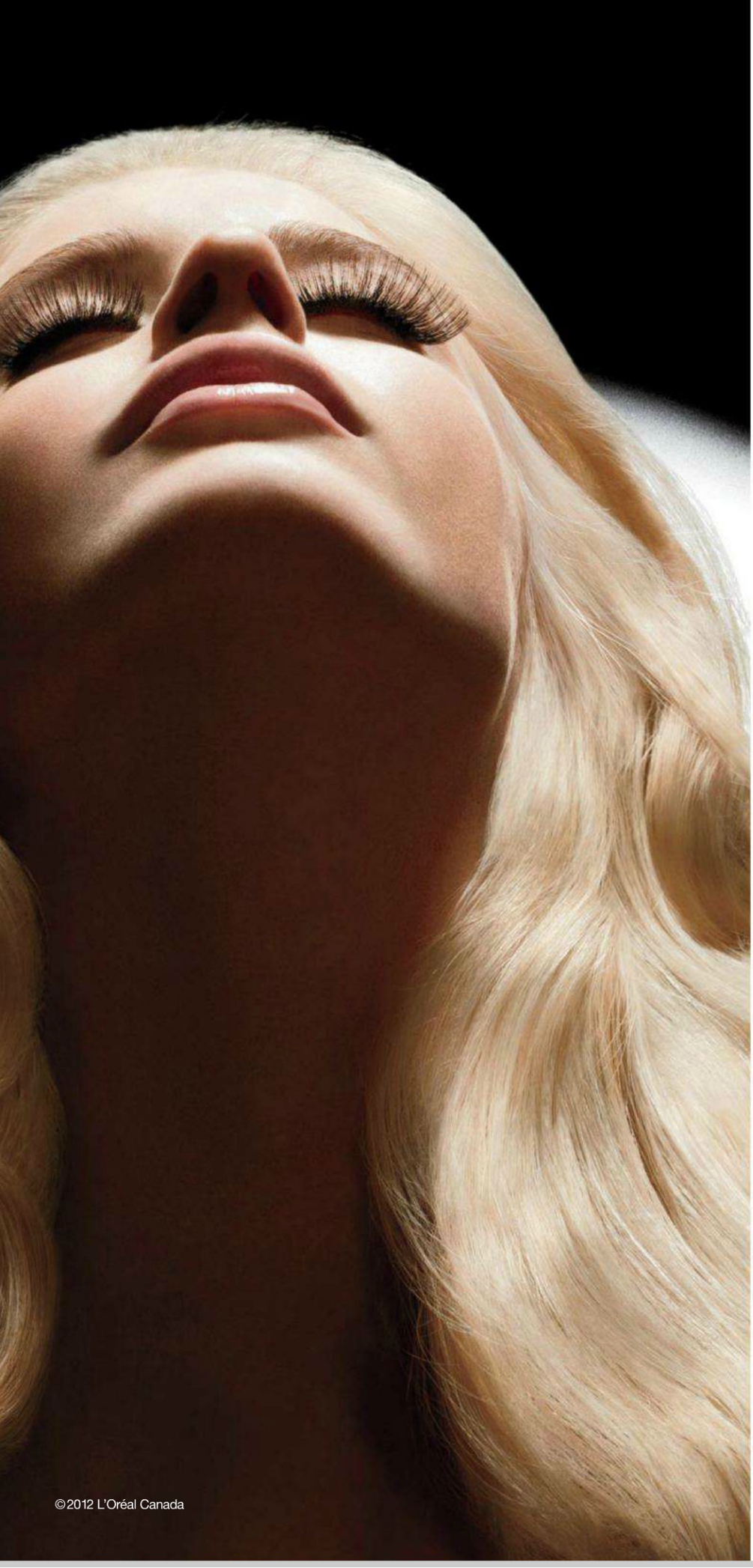
Visit **lorealparis.ca** for more information or to find other inspiring tips from Eric Del Monaco.



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styleathome.com *online this month*

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This month, you could win an HP Envy 110 e-All-in-One, a stylish and sleek printer perfect for any room in the home. It connects directly to the Internet, providing easy access to your favourite social networking sites and the latest news, recipes and apps. Plus, you can print from anywhere by using your mobile device!

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PHOTOGRAPHY, ISTOCKPHOTO (PICNICWARE, COCKTAILS), DONNA GRIFFITH

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PRODUCER JESSICA WAKS

stylenews

Decor, trends, style ideas and more – we bring you the latest and greatest inspirations.

all covered up

For this issue's project of the month, managing editor and resident crafter Catherine Therrien gives inexpensive clay pots a new lease on life by covering them in fabric. The idea is so simple and requires only a few pots of various sizes, your favourite fabrics and a bottle of Mod Podge. Whether you use the pots to hold plants, craft supplies or party essentials, the best part is that they can be easily customized to suit any style, theme or palette.

POT LUCK

TAKING ONLY ABOUT 10 MINUTES TO COMPLETE EACH POT, THIS IS THE PERFECT WEEKEND DIY PROJECT.

TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE THESE FABRIC-COVERED POTS, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA; STYLING, CATHERINE THERRIEN

picnic-ready pattern

Rosanna's first collection of outdoor-friendly melamine trays and plates is adorned with playful prints inspired by vintage flea-market finds.

Fleamarket Chic **TRAYS,** $16 US each, and **PLATES,** $48 US per set of 6, Rosanna, rosannainc.com.

BOWL ME OVER

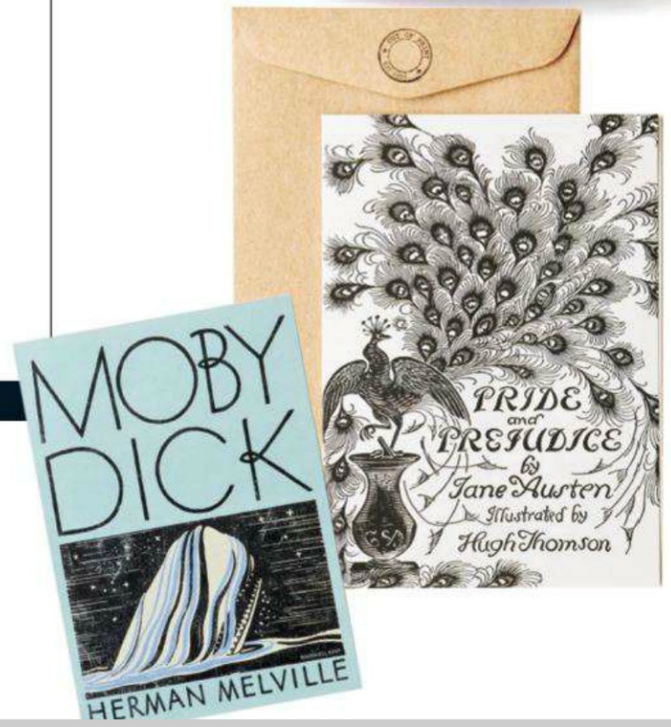
STAY WARM DURING SPRING'S CHILLIER NIGHTS WITH THE STRIKING BOL FIREPIT FROM TORONTO-BASED PALOFORM. SPUN FROM CORTEN STEEL – AND PRE-WEATHERED TO PROVIDE AN EVEN PATINA – THE VESSEL CAN BE ORDERED WITH A WOOD-BURNING GRATE INSERT OR WITH GAS OR PROPANE BURNERS.

Bol Corten **FIREPIT,** from $2,100, Paloform, paloform.com.

CITRUS SERVICE

No need to fret over broken glass on the patio with Jonathan Adler's Positano melamine utensils and acrylic tumblers, boasting punchy-hued graphics.

Positano Large **TUMBLERS,** $9 US each, and **UTENSILS,** $12 US per set, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.



READ & GREET

STIR UP SOME NOSTALGIA IN YOUR FAVOURITE BOOKWORM'S LIFE WITH GREETING CARDS FEATURING ICONIC BOOK-COVER DESIGNS.

Moby Dick and *Pride and Prejudice* **GREETING CARDS,** $4 US each, Out of Print, outofprintclothing.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, MIKE DELUCA/TC MEDIA (GREETING CARDS)

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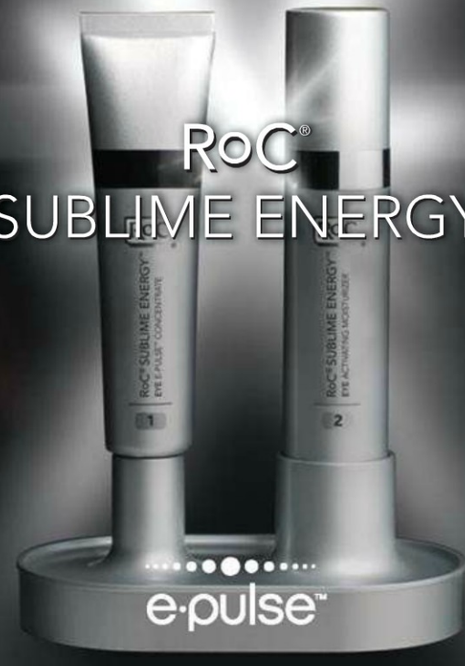

* Clinically proven to deliver the same age-defying results in 3 hours that our traditional eye creams provide in 4 weeks
** In the upper layer of the epidermis †For money-back guarantee please call 1-800-762-1964. UPCs must be submitted within 60 days of purchase. ©Johnson & Johnson Inc. 2012

LIGHTING THE WAY

A dreamy pale blue paint job and embossed glass reminiscent of everyone's favourite retro Mason jars make this lantern a stylish steal.

LANTERN, $13, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

A HOMEY TOUCH

ADD TEXTURE, COLOUR AND PATTERN TO YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE WITH THESE WEATHER-RESISTANT TOSS CUSHIONS AND RUG. BONUS: THE RUG IS RECYCLABLE AND REVERSIBLE!

Korhani Home Bondi **RUG** in Blue, 5'10" x 9'5", $40, Walmart, walmart.ca.

Korhani Home Bredene **PATIO CUSHION,** $8, Walmart, walmart.ca.

Korhani Home Rimini **PATIO CUSHION,** $8, Walmart, walmart.ca.

HEX APPEAL

NAMED AFTER THE AIRPORT CODE FOR MUNICH, THE FUN HEXAGON-SHAPED CERAMIC MUC TABLES BY CHRISTOPHE DELCOURT COME IN SETS OF FOUR OR SEVEN IN FOUR DIFFERENT COLOUR COMBINATIONS.

Christophe Delcourt MUC 4 **TABLE,** from $1,540, and MUC 7 **TABLE,** from $2,675, Avenue Road, avenue-road.com.

you've come a long way, baby

In honour of barbecue king Weber's 60th anniversary, we're taking a look at the evolution of the legendary kettle grill.

1952

The original kettle designed by founder George Stephen.

1973

The Weber electric kettle is one of many models over the years to boast a colourful exterior.

2000

The Weber One-Touch Gold remains a designer favourite for its retro look.

Weber One-Touch Gold Charcoal **GRILL** in Black, $200, Weber, weber.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF WEBER-STEPHEN PRODUCTS LLC (BARBECUES)

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DRESS, $150, Mango, mango.com.

MINI TREND

inspiration

Fresh from the spring runway, a white dress creates the perfect canvas for watery blooms that appear to be painted on.

Watercolour **TOSS CUSHION,** $20, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Richard Ginori 1735 Impero Prova Prima C Rectangular **PLAQUE,** $308, John Paul & Co., johnpaul-co.com.

PAINTING BY NUMBERS

WHETHER BOLD OR SUBDUED, COLOURFUL, PAINTERLY STROKES ELEVATE THESE EVERYDAY PIECES TO WONDERFUL WORKS OF ART.

TALKING TRASH

VIPP, LONG PRAISED FOR ITS PRACTICAL AND STURDY SIGNATURE PEDAL BINS, HAS INTRODUCED ITS ANNUAL COLOUR FOR 2012, COPENHAGEN GREEN – A NOD TO THE CELEBRATED BRAND'S HOMETOWN.

Vipp **PEDAL BINS** in Copenhagen Green, from $119 US, Horne, shophorne.com.

DOCK DAYS

It's hard to resist this candy-coloured assortment of sling loungers, which are both fresh and functional with their easy-to-manoeuvre wheels.

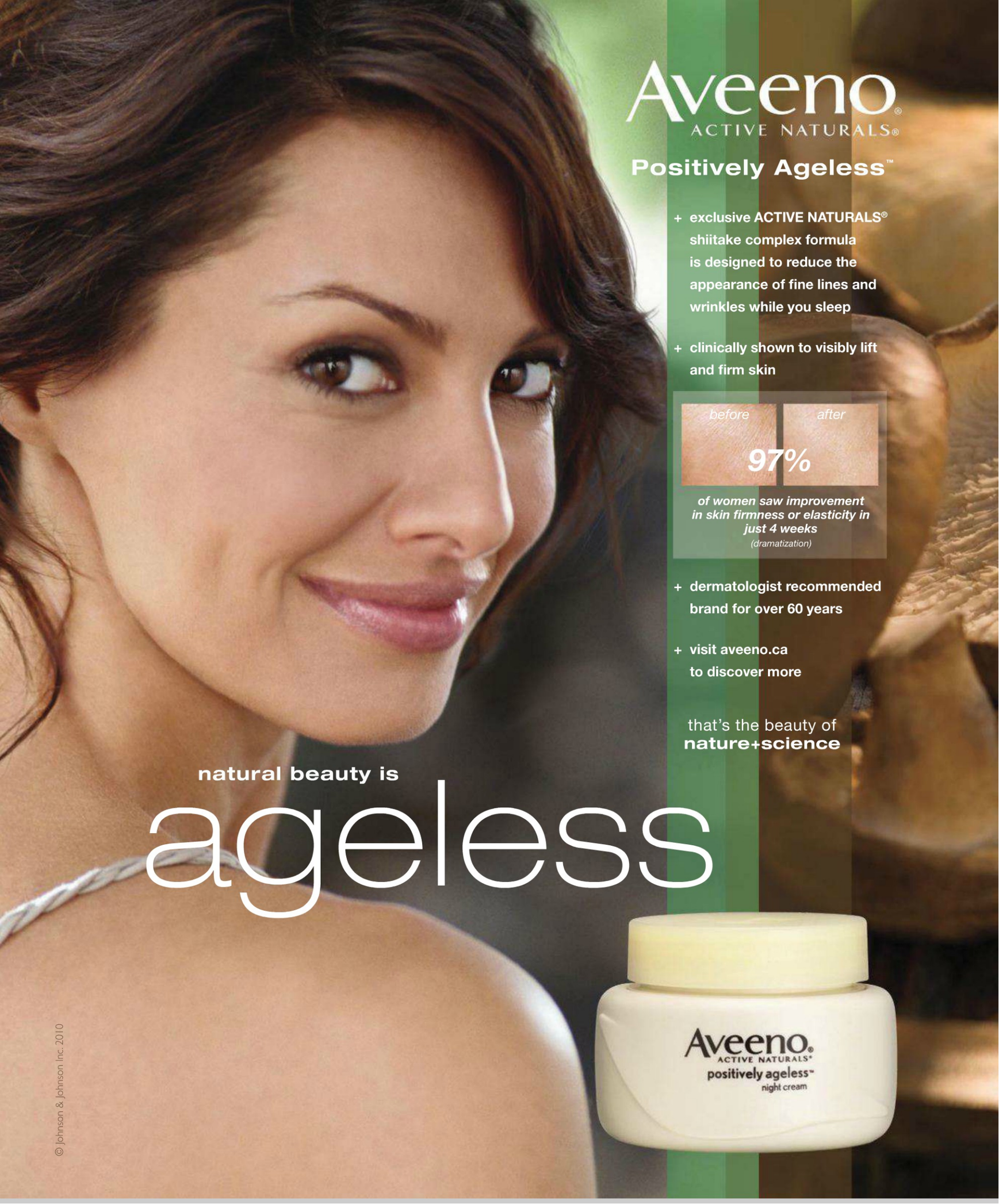
Home Studio **SLING LOUNGERS,** $100 each, Home Outfitters, homeoutfitters.com.

one of a kind

No two quartz surfaces from Caesarstone's Supremo collection are alike, mimicking the beauty of nature in a variety of gorgeous neutrals and even a soft pink!

FROM LEFT Supremo collection **QUARTZ** in Maharaja, Queen of Hearts and Swan Lake, from $80 per sq. ft., Caesarstone, caesarstone.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, MIKE DELUCA/TC MEDIA (TOSS CUSHION, QUARTZ)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May days in the kitchen always seem to arrive enveloped in a certain easy cheer that's reminiscent of a scene from a vintage cookbook, and ladylike cupcakes are the perfect dessert to accompany that warm, gentle softness in the air. This version, which mixes the refined flavour of coconut with the tartness of lime, happily marries that sense of mannerly nostalgia with the spirited sophistication of the way we live today, and gives them a polished 21st-century demeanour that's all their own.

A delicate confection of sweetness and light with a tangy, tropical twist.

coconut lime *cupcakes*

PRODUCER TARA BALLANTYNE | **TEXT** SUZANNE MOUTIS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOE KIM

RECIPE DEVELOPMENT & FOOD STYLING, TARA BALLANTYNE; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

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PREP TIME 30 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 16 CUPCAKES

FOR CUPCAKES

- 1 tsp lemon juice
- ½ cup skim milk
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1¼ cups granulated sugar
- 2 eggs at room temperature
- 1 heaping tsp grated lime zest
- 1½ tbsp fresh lime juice
- 1 vanilla bean, split and seeds scraped out
- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 cup sweetened coconut flakes

FOR FROSTING

- 140 g white chocolate squares
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 4 cups confectioner's sugar, sifted
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 4 tbsp sour cream
- Coconut flakes for garnish

1. GREASE MUFFIN TINS or line with paper muffin cups and preheat oven to 350°F.

2. MAKE BUTTERMILK by stirring the lemon juice into the skim milk. Set aside.

3. CREAM TOGETHER the butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer. With the mixer on low, beat in the eggs one at a time. Add in the lime zest, juice and vanilla seeds and mix well.

4. IN A SEPARATE BOWL, sift together the flour, baking powder and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the wet, alternating with the buttermilk, until combined. Fold in the coconut. Scoop the cupcake mix into the muffin tins, filling ⅔ full. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of cupcakes comes out clean. Allow the cupcakes to cool completely on a wire rack.

5. MEANWHILE, PREPARE THE FROSTING. Carefully melt the chocolate in a heat-proof bowl over a pot of simmering water. Remove from the heat and cool until just warm. Whip the butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add the confectioner's sugar slowly, mixing until well combined. Add the lime juice and the sour cream and mix until smooth. Gently fold in the chocolate.

6. FROST THE CUPCAKES when cool, and garnish half with the additional coconut flakes. Serve immediately.

TIP Use a spring-loaded ice cream scoop to scoop the batter into the muffin tins to ensure the same size cupcake every time. The unfrosted cupcakes can be stored in an airtight container in the freezer for up to six weeks. Freeze the frosting separately. When defrosting the cupcakes, keep them in the container so that condensation forms on the outside of the package, not the cupcakes.

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What's your Scotties® design personality?

TELL US AND YOU COULD **WIN*$5000** TO DECORATE YOUR HOME!

Scotties has always designed style-savvy tissue boxes that complement every room in your home. Now Style at Home's Editor-in-Chief Erin McLaughlin has teamed up with Scotties to create three box designs that are based on this year's hottest decor trends.

Help us decide which Scotties box design should be featured in stores by voting for your favourite online at **styleathome.com/scotties**. Only one box design will be declared the winner and sold in stores!

Decor trend 1 seaside chic

the look: Clean blue-green hues, natural wood, white accessories and organic materials take centre stage with this fresh style that is accessible to everyone. Achieve the look with white slipcovered furniture and layers of cushions in different shades of blue. A hit of pink adds a chic burst of colour to this soft monochromatic palette.

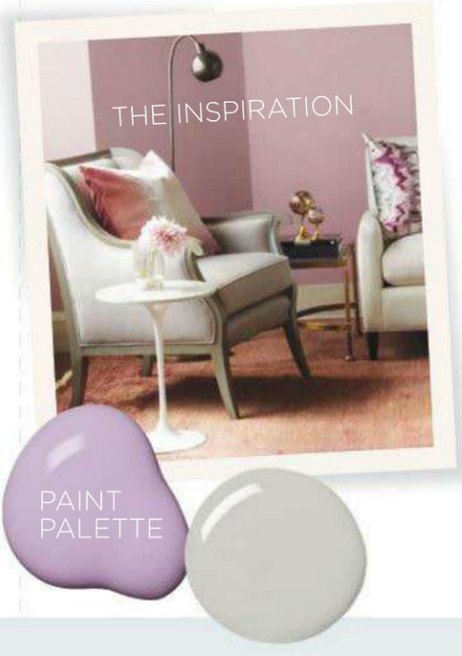
The design: A soft and pretty image evokes the cottage look and creates a casual – and stylish – "photograph" to sit in any room in the house.

Decor trend 2 vintage charmer

the look: The allure of French flea markets and English antique stores is the inspiration for this sophisticated look. A perfect combination of vintage and modern, this transitional style has universal appeal. Use a mix of accessories to create vignettes on open shelves, or bring your old china from the cupboard to hang on your walls to create an impromptu gallery.

The design: A display of curated accessories – from antique to contemporary – has eternal appeal. The uplifting palette is just right for those who love colour in their decor.

Decor trend 3 eternally elegant



the look: The glamorous 1930s were the dramatic inspiration behind this design. Black and white work together seamlessly to create a bold aesthetic for homeowners who love classic style. Cluster glass candlesticks on a mantel or dining table to add sparkle. Don't forget to add one hit of rich colour – dark fuschia orchids add the final polish.

The design: For the ultimate sophisticate, this versatile design will suit many looks. Best of all, the trompe l'oeil effect is like having a vase of fresh flowers in your room.

Vote online at **styleathome.com/scotties**
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PEOPLE ALWAYS *ask us*

This issue, the stars of the TV show *Steven and Chris* tell you how to find decor inspiration for your outdoor space.

We took this photo on one of our visits. It offers the perfect palette to inspire your own oasis.

inspiration

We've had a long love affair with Barbados for many obvious reasons, but, above all, this stunning Caribbean island provides us with endless inspiration when decorating outdoor spaces.

Steven Sabados and **Chris Hyndman** are the hosts of the lifestyle show *Steven and Chris.* Watch them weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC. Catch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** monthly on the show as a guest expert. If you have a design dilemma, email Steven and Chris at askstevenandchris@cbc.ca.

1

Teak furniture is plentiful in the tropics. This solid teak wingback chair is both grand and comfortable. It reminds us of an antique found in an old plantation house. Over time, the wood will develop a beautiful patina.

18th C. Teak **WINGBACK CHAIR,** $1,290 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.

2

This crackled-glaze asymmetrical dinnerware simulating little pools of water will bring a bit of the ocean to your table.

Stoneware Naxos **DINNERWARE,** from $4, CB2, cb2.com.

3

We love how Barbados is an island of visual contrasts: vivid hues mixed with natural elements. Here, that's represented in this durable braided rug.

AMS Imports Rain or Shine Indoor/Outdoor **RUG** in Midnight Blue/Bronze, from $76 US, Wayfair, wayfair.com.

4

Shells are great accent pieces as they're actual sculptures from the sea. We'd place three together on a table for that wow factor.

SHELL, $60, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

5

Tropicals like majestic banana palms will add to the island vibe and can be easily planted in a large container for the summer and then brought indoors when it gets cold.

6

This lantern will not only cast a warm glow over your evening soirees but also add an enormous amount of style.

Polished nickel Santorini Square **LANTERN,** $65 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (SHELL), ISTOCKPHOTO (TREE)

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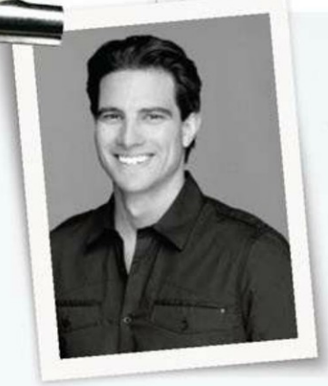

carved *in stone*

Outdoor living space helps us make the most of Canada's warmer months, and a stone patio is a smart way to create a getaway at the back of your yard, under the trees and away from it all. Here are some tips and materials to get you started. **TEXT** SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

For a small backyard, a stone patio is a perfect alternative to a wooden deck.

a look to love

A stone patio can be a low-maintenance and attractive addition to your home and I can guarantee it will be a favourite spot to hang out and enjoy the lazy days of summer for years to come. Finish off the area with some choice landscaping, a barbecue grill and comfy outdoor furniture, and you've built an amazing open-air space.

is DIY right for you?

Installing your own patio is not for the faint of heart – or the weak-kneed. It's heavy and dusty work, so be warned before you order skids of stone and bags of sand and gravel. There are a lot of stages to consider, and even if you're handy it's a big job to undertake, so read up on what's involved and talk to an expert before you get started.

For more of Scott's cost-saving tips and tricks for maintaining your home, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/SCOTTMCGILLIVRAY.**

Pretty up your patio with some fun summer chairs and colourful cushions made from durable outdoor fabric. It will be your very own tropical oasis!

paving the way

Pavers range in price from $3 to more than $10 a square foot and come in many colours, sizes and shapes to complement your home's exterior. Clay pavers are super durable and hold up to Canadian winters since they're fired at a higher temperature than the bricks used to build your house. Permacon concrete pavers are finished to look like stone and are not only a fantastic option for a patio, but they're also popular for driveways, walkways and garden edging, and you can create some great-looking patterns like herringbone and basket-weave in a variety of sizes and colours. Pavers are one of my all-time favourite materials for tying in your patio to the look of the rest of your home.

the best material for the job – and your budget

There are lots of options for patio materials out there, so make sure you choose one that's best for your climate and budget. Flagstone is a popular choice because it's long-lasting and looks timeless, but it's also one of the most expensive picks. It can be laid over a gravel or concrete base and the seams between each stone filled with sand or, in the case of a concrete base, filled with mortar. Try to pick a natural stone that's from a Canadian source so that it will hold up to our winters. For a patio that's eight by eight feet, you'll need about two tons of flagstone – or roughly one skid. A skid can range in price from $200 to $500, depending on the thickness of the stone. For a patio, you'd be safe going with three-quarters to one-inch thickness. Then factor in the cost of a professional installer, removing the existing sod or demolishing a pre-existing patio or deck and prepping the area with a good base and you can safely add $15 to $30 a square foot. The cost also depends on the accessibility of the space (i.e., if equipment can reach the desired location easily), and the layout's design.

Scott McGillivray is the host of HGTV's *Income Property*. Catch back-to-back episodes Thursdays at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on HGTV.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM LEYES, COURTESY OF HGTV CANADA (PORTRAIT); DONNA GRIFFITH (PATIO)

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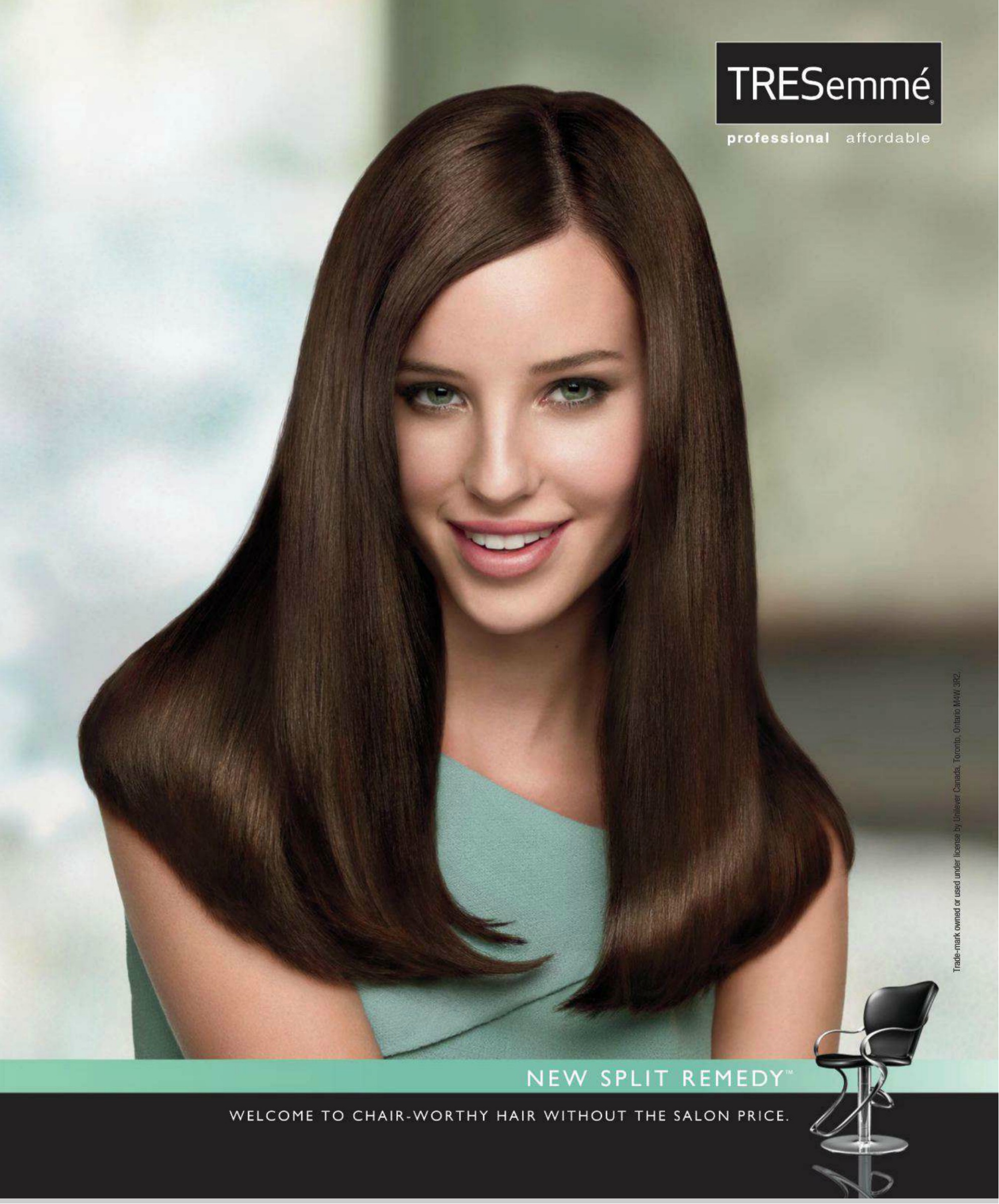
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PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE
TEXT SARA CATION
PHOTOGRAPHY MICHEL DUBE

high OR low...

can you tell the difference?

DOOR, THE DOOR STORE, THEDOORSTORE.CA; FLOORING, DRAPERY, WALL PAINT, LOWE'S, LOWES.CA

Wake up and smell the style: This fresh farmhouse-inspired breakfast nook is brimming with cheer thanks to bright colours that guarantee a good morning – whether you're rising on a mimosa or a SunnyD budget.

HIGH $4,756

$55 Blue Ridge hand-painted ceramic **PLATE,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.

$25 1930s hand-painted ceramic **PLATE,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.

$495 Victorian-era hand-painted bone china **PLATE** (set of six), Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.

$95 Italian pottery **PLATE,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.

$32 Steel blue **TUMBLER,** Pimlico Design Gallery, pimlicogallery.com.

$120 Atelier des Cent Ans large porcelain **BOWL** with blue Moroccan pattern, Mjölk, mjolk.ca.

$38 Coupe **SALAD PLATE,** Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.

$48 Porcelain Elephant **TEAPOT,** Essence of Living, 416-928-9117.

$299US Steel-and-aluminum Vintage Barn **PENDANT LIGHT** in Hunter, 18", Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.

$56 Earthenware Lemon Shaped **SUGAR BOWL** (with creamer), Wiliams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.

$345 Dualit New Generation Classic two-slice **TOASTER,** William Ashley, williamashley.com.

$56 Ceramic **BASKET,** Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.

$75 Porcelain Pillivuyt Covered **BUTTER DISH,** Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.

$18 Ceramic Lait **CREAMER,** Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.

$885US Hans Wegner Wishbone **CHAIR** in Red Lacquer, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

$1,299 Carrara marble-top Saarinen-style **DINING TABLE,** 36", Modern Furniture Knockoff, modernfurnitureknockoff.com.

LOW $1,357

$24US Stoneware De Vincennes Berries **DINNER PLATE,** Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$10 Stoneware Chickadee **PLATE** in Orange, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

$18US Natural World new bone china Bee **DESSERT PLATE,** Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$24US Hummingbird **DINNER PLATE,** Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$12US Opalescent **TUMBLER** in Blue, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$4 **CEREAL BOWL,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$5 **BREAD PLATE,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$30 Ceramic Elephant **TEAPOT,** Artifacts, artifactslifestyle.com.

$250 Vintage Industrial **PENDANT LIGHT,** The Door Store, thedoorstore.ca.

$18US Grapefruit **SUGAR BOWL,** Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$120 De'Longhi kMix two-slice **TOASTER,** Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

$20US Large square Farmer's Market **BASKET,** Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$12US Tea and Toast **BUTTER DISH** in White, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

$25 Ceramic **CREAMER,** L'Atelier, 416-966-0200.

$278 Wishbone **CHAIR** in Lacquered Orange, Design Republic, mydesignrepublic.com.

$229 Fibreboard-and-metal Docksta **DINING TABLE,** 41", IKEA, ikea.ca.

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plate & simple

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(1) Stoneware Amicable Aster **DINNER PLATE,** $24 US, (2) Natural World new bone china Green Bugs **DESSERT PLATE,** $18 US, (3) stoneware Champignons **PLATE,** $24 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; (4) ceramic cow-shaped **WALL HOOK,** $13, HomeSense, homesense.ca; (5) Natural World new bone china Hummingbird **DESSERT PLATE,** $18 US, (6) stoneware Hummingbird **DINNER PLATE,** $24 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; (7) 1930s hand-painted ceramic **PLATE,** $25, (8) Colport bone china **DINNER PLATE,** $110, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com; (9) Natural World new bone china Chameleon **DESSERT PLATE,** $18 US, (10) stoneware De Vincennes Berries **DINNER PLATE,** $24 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; (11) stoneware Chickadee **PLATE** in Orange, $10, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca; (12) Natural World new bone china Bee **DESSERT PLATE,** $18 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; (13) porcelain Chase **PLATE** in Yellow, $7, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

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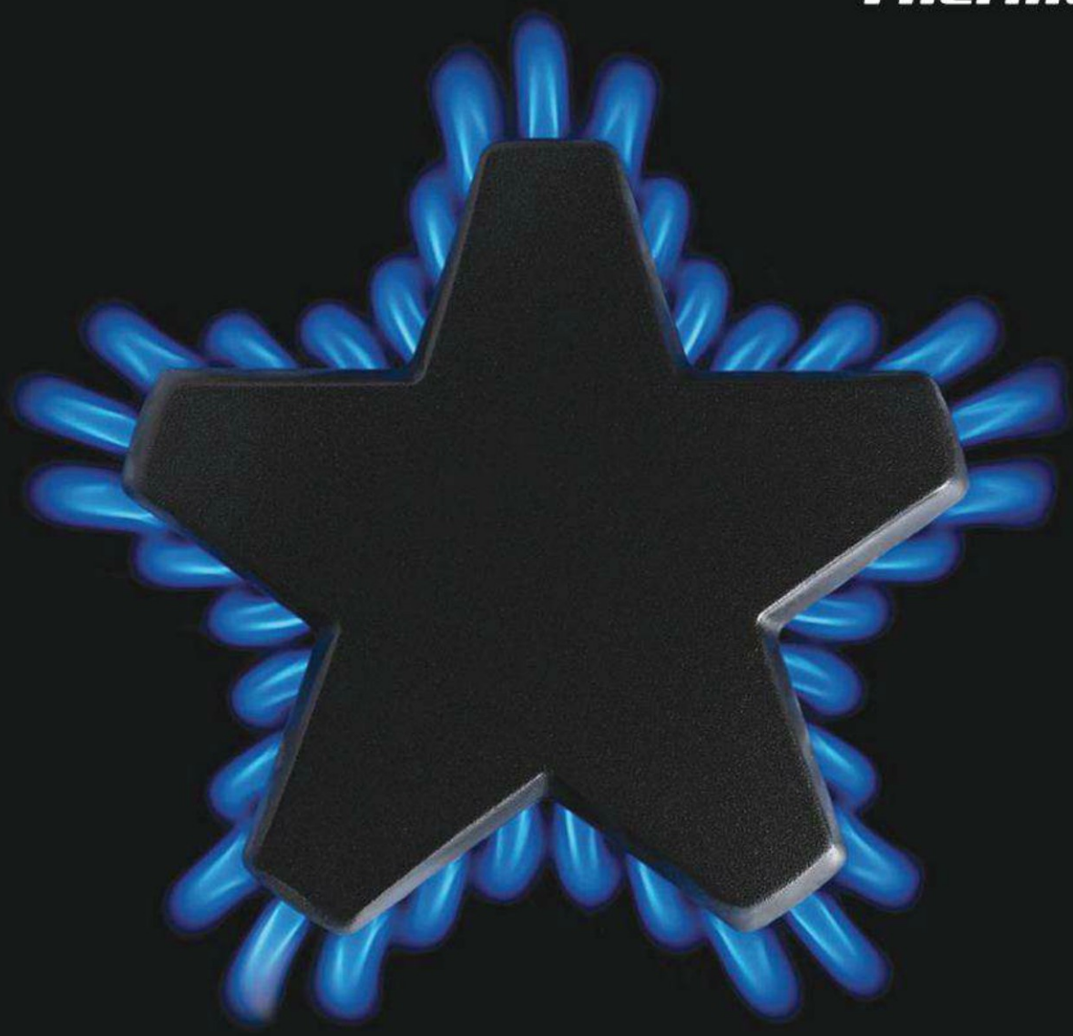

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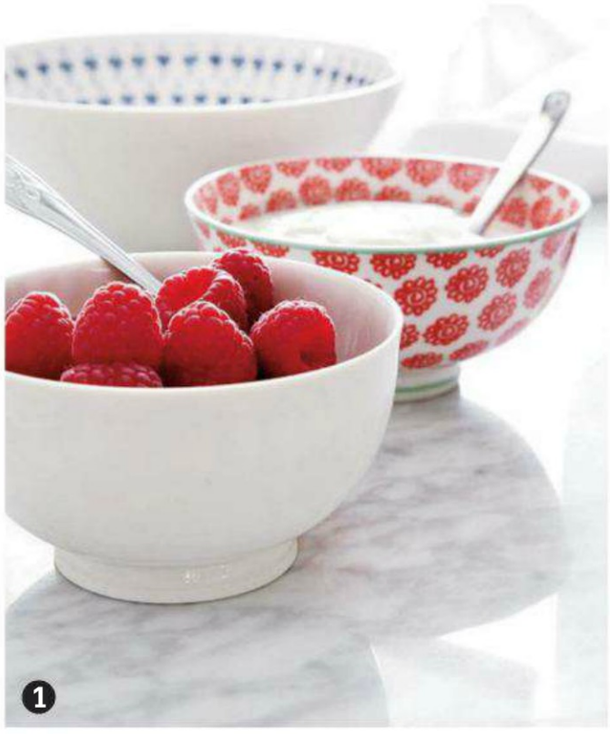

CHEW ON THIS

IF, IN THE REAL WORLD, BREAKFAST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY, THEN IN THE DECOR WORLD, THE DISHES IT'S PRESENTED ON MERIT EQUAL ESTEEM. HERE, SUBTLE INTEREST IS INFUSED THROUGH UNIQUE PIECES LIKE THE CERAMIC BASKET AND MILK CARTON-SHAPED CREAMER, WHILE THE MOSTLY WHITE PALETTE OFFERS A CLEAN, FRESH START TO THE DAY – WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING TOO LOUD OR TOO BUSY FOR OUR EARLY MORNINGS! BUT WHATEVER YOU PICK, MAKE IT SOMETHING YOU LOVE. AFTER ALL, A DAY THAT STARTS IN STYLE ENDS IN STYLE. (IS THAT A SAYING? WELL, WE THINK IT SHOULD BE.)

(1) Atelier des Cent Ans large porcelain **BOWL** with blue Moroccan pattern, $120, and white porcelain **BOWL,** $60, Mjölk, mjolk.ca; Atom Art **BOWL** in Red, $8 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com. (2) Ceramic **BASKET,** $56, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca. (3) Semiotics **JUICE GLASS,** $10 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; Ceramic Lait **CREAMER,** $18, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca. (4) Opalescent **TUMBLER** in Blue, $12 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com; Ole Jensen Surface **EGG CUP,** $45, Mjölk, mjolk.ca.

a simple wish

Since their original manufacture in 1950, Hans Wegner's chic, sculptural Wishbone chairs have exploded into a seemingly limitless variety of colour, from lavender to lemon to olive to peach.

Hans Wegner Wishbone **CHAIRS** in Natural, Chartreuse, Black and Sky Blue, from $849 US each, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

then

now

For more High or Low, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/HIGHLOW.**

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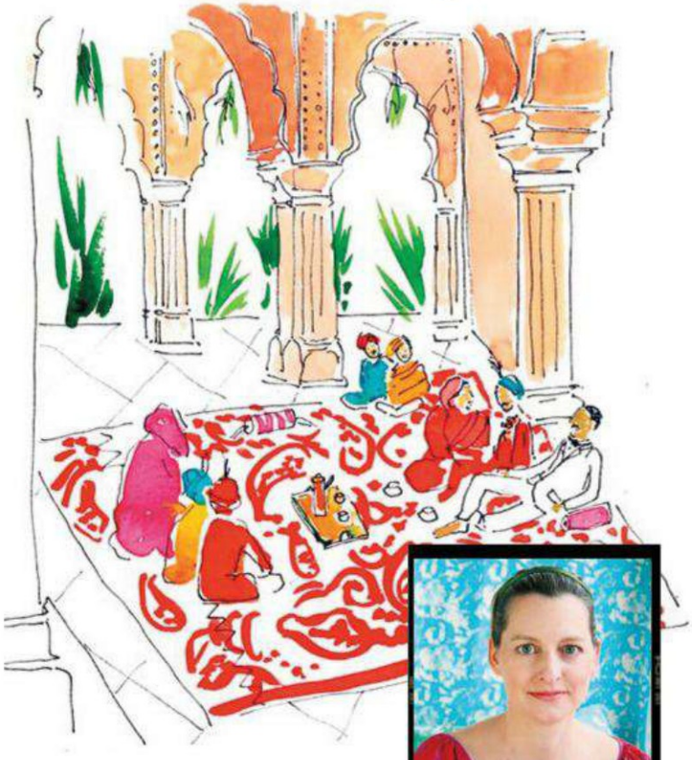
*Coatings Research Group (October 2008).

the Girl next door

PRODUCER
SARA CATION



"My most inspiring travel experience? India! Nothing compares with the saturated colours and creative use of textiles there." –Virginia Johnson

WHO Virginia Johnson, homegrown Canadian textile talent with an eye for vivid colour and stunning patterns that have found a home in the worlds of fashion and decor.

WHY WE LOVE VIRGINIA She's putting Toronto on the textile map with a fresh perspective that exudes playful sophistication and down-home global style while conjuring vibrant images of glamorous resorts: "I want to make people feel like they're on vacation," says Virginia. And, just looking at her work, we do!

the making of a Canadian textile superstar

1995

ATTENDS PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN IN NEW YORK CITY AFTER GRADUATING FROM QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY WITH A DEGREE IN ART HISTORY.

2000

Quits her job as accessories designer for Helmut Lang and begins illustrating for Kate Spade.

2001

MOVES TO TORONTO TO BEGIN HER EPONYMOUS LINE.

2002

Virginia Johnson, the company, launches with swimwear and caftans in small U.S. boutiques.

2003

RELEASES A NEW COLLECTION THAT'S BOLDER AND MORE VIBRANT THAN THE LAST; IT'S PICKED UP BY BARNEYS NEW YORK AND STEVEN ALAN THAT SAME YEAR.

PHOTOGRAPHY, MIRIAM JOHNSON (PORTRAIT, STUDIO); ISTOCKPHOTO (WATERCOLOUR); ILLUSTRATIONS, VIRGINIA JOHNSON

Virginia shares her inspiration, paintings, home and more! Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/VIRGINIAJOHNSON.**

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2009

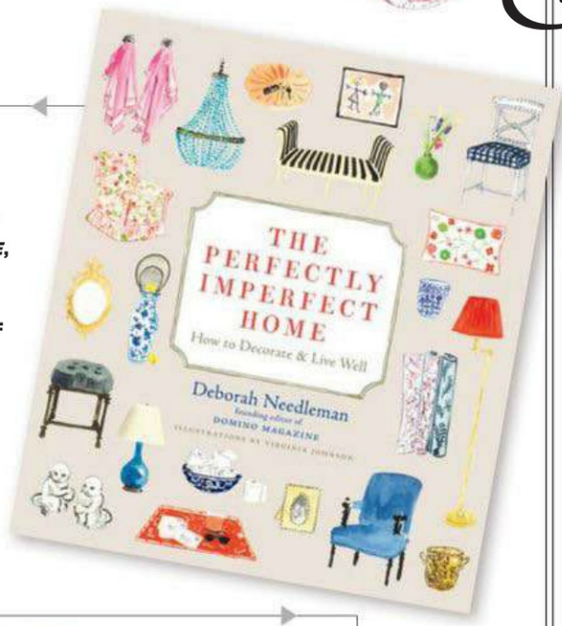
DESIGNS REACH THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET THROUGH ONLINE VENUES LIKE NET-A-PORTER.

2010

Begins work with Anthropologie designing a line of drapery.

2011

ILLUSTRATES *THE PERFECTLY IMPERFECT HOME*, THE BOOK BY FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *DOMINO* MAGAZINE DEBORAH NEEDLEMAN.



2012

LAUNCHES A LINE OF SCARVES FOR ANTHROPOLOGIE TO BE RELEASED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

2012

Virginia's company will move to a bigger, sunnier spot to commemorate its 10th anniversary. Check it out this spring at 970 College St. in Toronto! For more info, visit virginiajohnson.com.

Virginia's favourites

best place to shop in Canada

I love the boutiques in Toronto's Trinity-Bellwoods neighbourhood (where I live) – Type Books, The Paper Place, Kol Kid, Jaidens Petals and Nadège in particular.

The Paper Place

5 things she never leaves the house without

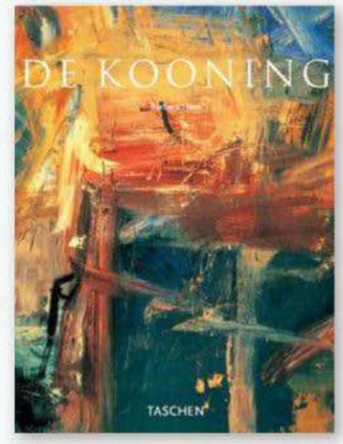
1. Jo Malone Wild Bluebell Body Crème.
2. My Roots satchel bag with front pockets. (I know, everyone in Toronto has one, but there's a reason!)
3. My iPhone.
4. A sketchbook.
5. A Pilot pen.

top Toronto restaurant

Delux on Ossington Avenue. It serves up Cuban lunch by day (they have the most delicious avocado sandwich) and French cuisine by night.

books for inspiration

My most recent purchase was a book on Willem de Kooning. My two-year-old son became very fond of his paintings at the Art Gallery of Ontario, and then I got to know his earlier works when I saw his retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. He uses really unusual colour combinations like mustard with jade and olive green. I bought oil sticks in the same shades when I was there to experiment when I came home!



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SUMMER ESSENTIAL
INDICATES MUST-HAVES FOR THE ULTIMATE IN COMFORT AND ENJOYMENT OUTDOORS.

We Canadians know how to take advantage of the outdoors when the warm weather hits. And these five spaces, ranging from tiny balconies to spacious decks, are indicative of this very notion. Here's how these creative homeowners made the most of it all.

modern rustic
400 sq. ft.

polished casual
98 sq. ft.

bold minimal
104 sq. ft.

cheerful eclectic
625 sq. ft.

bright contemporary
350 sq. ft.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

400 sq. ft. modern rustic

When Toronto realtor Kara Reed moved from a big house with a full backyard into this urban condo, some sort of outdoor space was on her must-have list. The 400-square-foot rooftop terrace now acts as her oasis when she's too busy to get up to her Muskoka cottage on summer weekends. An extensive redesign by Terry Ryan of Cubic Yard Design saw plenty of wooden planters installed, lush greenery brought in and a new outdoor kitchen area with a built-in barbecue and cabinetry. And thanks to views over sprawling green space, "I don't feel like I'm in the middle of the city," says Kara.

ABOVE A basket filled with cozy throws is a staple for cool nights spent enjoying a drink or two and watching the sunset.

ABOVE, RIGHT A low planter box next to the barbecue holds fresh herbs and small veggies for adding to the many meals homeowner Kara Reed serves on the terrace. Sleek white dining chairs act as a counter-point to the rustic table and several other wood features.

RIGHT An ample work surface allows Kara to easily mix drinks and prep food while guests lounge just a few feet away in the living space.

BELOW, RIGHT A built-in stainless steel barbecue, plenty of cabinetry and a small dishwasher, wine fridge and sink just inside the terrace landing make entertaining and cleanup a cinch.

BELOW Toss cushions in muted yellows and greys bring the comfort of the indoors out.

DESIGN, Cubic Yard Design, yd3.ca; Chelsea Gray HC-168 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; teak **DINING TABLE,** large white **PLANTERS,** Design Within Reach; **DINING CHAIRS,** Tusch Seating; **SOFA, ARMCHAIRS, LOUNGER, END TABLE,** Restoration Hardware; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Carol Reed Interior Design; round **MIRROR,** letter K **WALL ART,** Fresh Home & Garden; hanging wire **LANTERNS,** Quince Flowers.

SUMMER ESSENTIAL

Chenille Seed-stitch **THROW** in Ash, $77, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

FOR A LOOK INSIDE KARA REED'S CONDO, SEE PAGE 128

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH (EXTERIOR); RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (THROW)

Wood strapping was applied to much of the terrace's concrete structure to lend texture and warmth.

A long planter of yew creates a hedge-like backdrop, while oversized planters with Japanese tree lilacs add fragrance and a lush leafiness to the space.

In a clever move, Kara had custom metal trays made to fit overtop of the lounger when it lies flat, creating a coffee table for setting down drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

The contemporary rustic persona of the space comes from natural Western red cedar decking and cladding and chunky teak furnishings with durable outdoor fabrics.

Crisp grey and white patterns mingle with fresh blue and yellow ones on the seat and toss cushions. Choice accessories in the same colour scheme provide a finished look to the tiny balcony space.

With strong winds and bright sunlight hitting the southwest-facing balcony for much of the day and a roof over the entire space, conditions are too harsh for real plants. Homeowner Tim Lam solved the problem by bringing in faux plants and flowers to add greenery.

Tim laid wood-slat flooring to cover the concrete floor and filled the leftover gap with smooth river rocks. A DIY reversible outdoor rug was made by stitching two different outdoor fabrics back to back with contrasting binding.

98 sq. ft. polished casual

Perched 28 storeys above street level, the balcony off Tim Lam's condo offers a great view of the Toronto city skyline. But with a busy job in the finance industry and an active design blog to attend to (designmaze-tim.blogspot.com), Tim needed a completely low-maintenance plan to keep the balcony ready for entertaining. A DIY outdoor rug, wood-slat flooring and faux greenery warm up the brick-and-concrete backdrop. The irregular shape of the 98-square-foot space creates a cozy configuration for the resin wicker seating arrangement. Colourful patterned toss cushions and crisp accessories in a pulled-together palette lend the space a polished indoor-outdoor aesthetic.

Resin wicker **FURNITURE,** Loblaws; **FLOORING TILES, ARTIFICIAL PLANTS,** IKEA; ceramic **STOOL,** HomeSense; **FABRICS,** Designer Fabrics; **SEWING,** Wesley Seto Design.

SUMMER ESSENTIAL
Striped Grenö **TOSS CUSHIONS** in Yellow and Grey, $16 each, IKEA, ikea.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH; STYLING, ANN MARIE FAVOT

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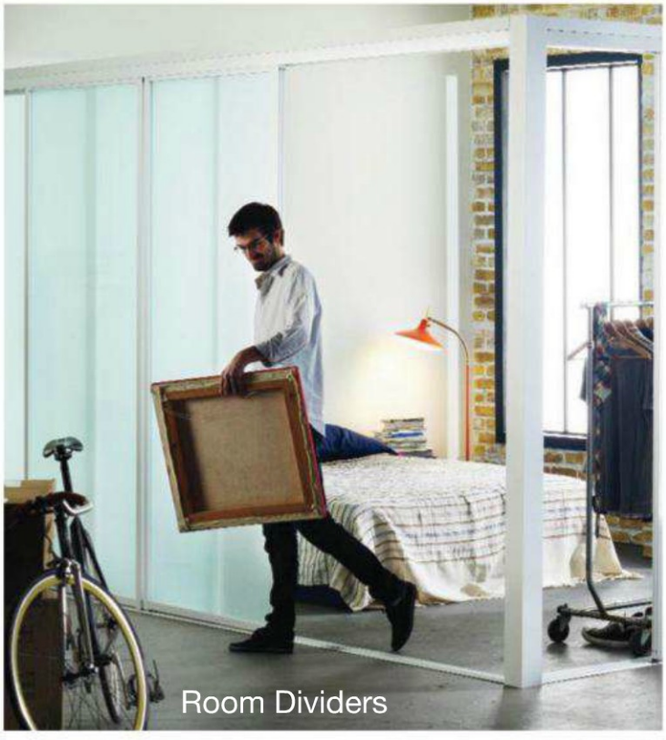
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A pairing of solid coloured vases with tropical foliage and orchids is an easy way to add fresh greenery without sacrificing square footage.

A weathered-teak modular sofa can be separated into two pieces or used as a sectional, as homeowner Stacey Cohen has done here. All-weather fabric covers zip off to be thrown in the wash. A strong colour palette carried out from the condo's interior – a mix of turquoise, blues and greens – helps establish an indoor-outdoor connection.

Bright linens and tableware bring the interior palette out to the balcony.

SUMMER ESSENTIAL

Pencil Stripe **VASE,** $30, Watercolour **VASE,** $25, Chapters Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

104 sq. ft. bold minimal

Homeowner and designer Stacey Cohen prefers an easy-to-maintain outdoor space on the balcony of her 20th-floor condo in Toronto. Completely eschewing containers of shrubs and plants, she opts for simple cut flowers and candles when entertaining out here.

Stacey installed the click-and-lock deck flooring on her own ("with the help of a bottle of wine," she says with a laugh), giving the space a hit of warmth and texture. The eight-by-13-foot southwest-facing balcony gets its privacy from concrete and frosted-glass partitions and plenty of colour from bold toss cushions, table linens, vases and a café table and chairs (not shown) in a cheery shade of turquoise.

DESIGN, Interiors by Stacey Cohen, interiorsbystaceycohen.com; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** 1212 Decor; WPC Veranda Easy Deck Tile **FLOORING SYSTEM,** The Home Depot.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ANGUS FERGUSSON; STYLING, ANN MARIE FAVOT

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625 sq. ft. cheerful eclectic

Much like its owner, this 25-by-25-foot patio is bursting with plenty of colour and personality. Attached to the ground-floor Vancouver apartment of Jillian Harris, former *Bachelorette*, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* designer and host of *Canada's Handyman Challenge*, the patio's eclectic decor and colourful furnishings lend the space a cheery vibe, even on the greyest of West Coast days. "I wanted it to be lush, bright and totally approachable," says Jillian. "I wanted guests to walk outside and feel immediately happy."

DESIGN, Jillian Harris Design, jillianharris.com; yellow **ARMCHAIR,** Modernica.

Low, comfy sofas invite lounging late into the night, when homeowner Jillian Harris lights loads of candles and tiki torches to keep the party going.

Solid fencing in a smoky blue-grey colour gives the spacious patio plenty of privacy.

The yellow fibre-glass shell chair was one of Jillian's first pieces of "real" furniture. Brought outdoors, it lends colour and character and can withstand the elements.

The colourful stool pulls all the colours of the space together and offers extra seating or a spot to place drinks.

SUMMER ESSENTIAL
Eames **ARMCHAIR** in Lime Yellow, $499 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, BARRY CALHOUN

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Oversized planters are filled with PeeGee hydrangea standards, which bring dramatic height and lush greenery to the deck.

The extremely durable woven Barcelona table and chairs by Dedon are "the perfect white," says homeowner Lisa Sterio. She brings the artwork out and hangs it on the brick wall whenever she's entertaining.

Lisa struck a deal with the landlord to turn a window into functional French doors that provide easy access to the spacious deck.

350 sq. ft. bright contemporary

Almost like magic, with the advent of warmer weather each spring, homeowner and designer Lisa Sterio gains an extra 350 square feet of living space thanks to her spacious deck. Her apartment – housed within a historic mansion that's divided into three units – forms a horseshoe shape that surrounds the deck and gives it complete privacy. Mornings and evenings spent entertaining friends and family are even more secluded thanks to views of trees and ravines beyond. Comfortable seating, oversized planters, luxe accessories and even artwork on the aged brick wall bring an indoors-out sense to the deck, creating an elegant backdrop for dinner parties.

DESIGN, Sterio & Associates, 416-417-5806; Dedon Barcelona
TABLE & CHAIRS, Studio B;
PLANTING DESIGN, Andrea Nedkov and Maria Szoke, through Sterio & Associates.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

SUMMER ESSENTIAL
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PHOTOGRAPHY: DONNA GRIFFITH (EXTERIOR); RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (CANDLE HOLDERS); STYLING: CHRISTINE HANLON

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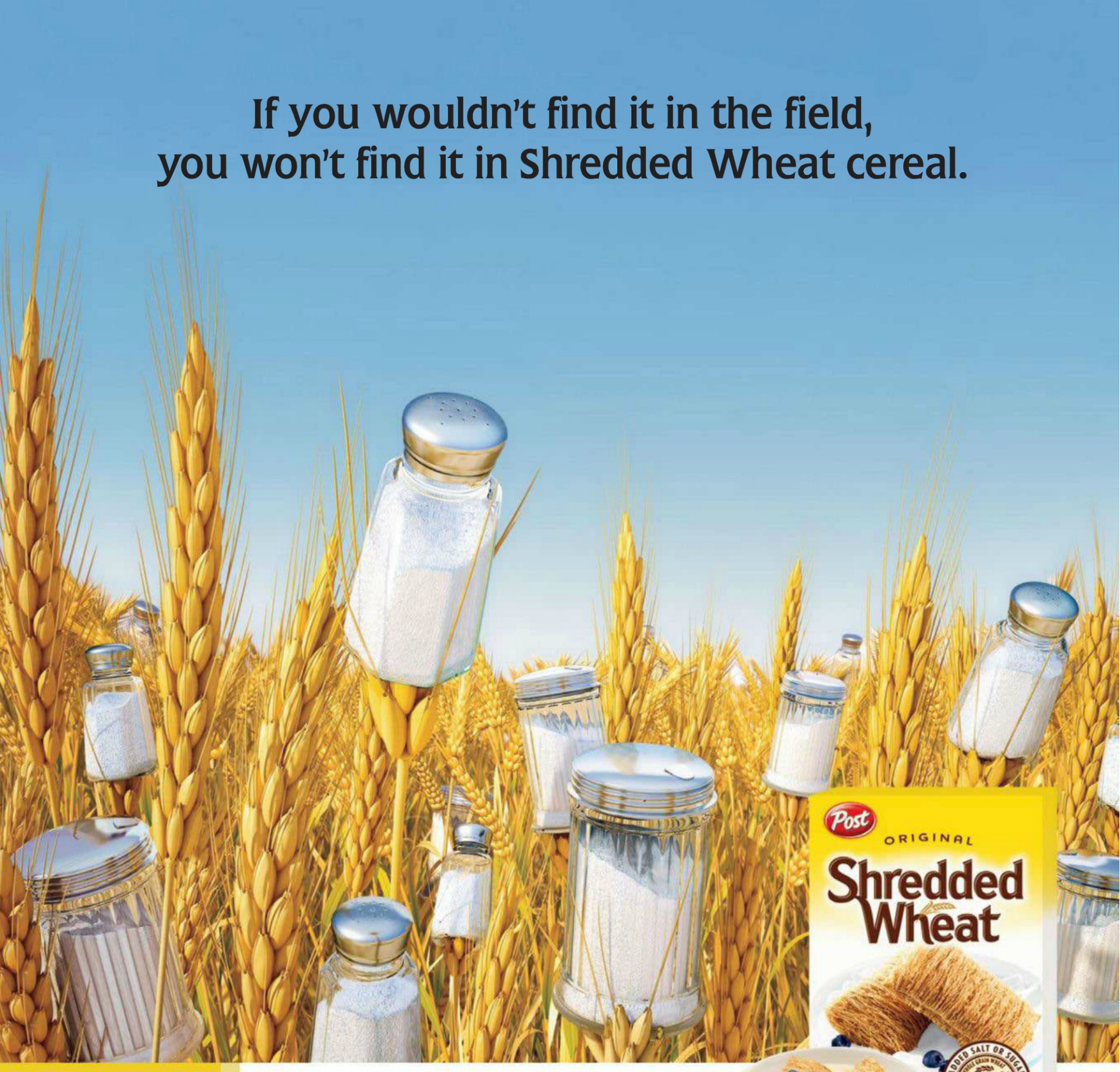

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FIRST TIME'S *the charm*

It may be a bold move to fill a small space with this much pattern, colour and furniture, but designer Lindsay Mens Craig boasts as much confidence as her space does personality – and it really works!

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE

PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY BRANDFORD

At 22 years of age, most of us weren't walking up to Sarah Richardson asking for a job. But most of us aren't Lindsay Mens Craig. Humorous and energetic, she's positively effervescent when she talks about what she loves – and what she loves is walls brimming with personality, bedding topped with texture à-gogo and surfaces accented with glitzy accessories galore.

"When something calls my name, I buy it," she says simply. She knows she'll find a place for it – even if it's a chorus of voices calling out to her different tastes and styles. So when Lindsay decorated her 800-square-foot condo in downtown Toronto, a crowd of colours, patterns and textures seamlessly came together, mixing and mingling as easily and comfortably as old friends.

It's fitting then that Lindsay – who began at Sarah Richardson Design as an intern but now works as both a designer for Sarah and a design team member for *Sarah 101* on →

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You can't tell from this angle, but the coffee table is actually six feet long. Homeowner Lindsay Mens Craig's friends were unsure how furniture of this scale would fit inside the compact living room, but angling sleek chairs and using a large mirror to reflect nearby Lake Ontario makes the small room shine.

MIRROR, Green's Antiques; **CONSOLE, TABLE LAMP,** Patina Antiques; Coco **CHAIR,** Sarah Richardson Design; **THROW,** Ribbehege & Azevedo; glass-and-metal **COFFEE TABLE,** Decorum Decorative Finds.

OPPOSITE Red tulips stand out against a cohesive collection of watery blue vases.

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LEFT Lindsay turned her hallway into a gallery by painting a pale blue rectangle on the wall, then hanging her pictures inside of it. The bench below is great for putting on shoes, putting down groceries or serving as extra seating when guests stop by.

Blue leopard-print **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Quadrille; **BENCH,** Sarah Richardson Design.

FAR LEFT Lindsay cuddles her loyal companion, Axel.

BOTTOM Behind the sofa sits a tiny black bar that hides an ugly vent cover. Plus, "hits of black in a room keep the rest of the colours anchored," says Lindsay.

SOFA, Sarah Richardson Design; **RUG,** Y&Co; **SIDE TABLE, VASE** (on coffee table), ChairTableLamp.

HGTV – decorated her condo with entertaining friends in mind. "I wanted it to be a fun place for me to hang out with my girlfriends," she says. So there's ample seating and lots of surfaces to rest drinks and appetizers. "People kept saying, 'There's no way you're going to fit all that furniture in there!' I had to creatively angle some of it, but I managed to cram it all in. I knew I would," she says confidently.

And Lindsay's approach to decorating *is* confident. She always does the big jobs first, and she does them fast. "I want to have the sofa and desk arranged and the drapes up the day I move in. I also need to have the walls painted right away," she adds.

But we're not talking about just a simple coat of mild neutrals. Within the first week of moving into her new place, Lindsay had painted eight-inch-wide charcoal grey and white stripes to create a feature wall in the living room. She laughs, remembering the process: "I knew it would be torturous, so I had a little red wine and let's just →

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Lindsay took advantage of a small nook in the main living space and created an elegant dining area by incorporating glass and metal furniture with clean lines. The round table ensures ease of flow, while the light, airy quality of the chairs makes them less obtrusive in the open-concept layout.

DINING CHAIRS, ChairTableLamp; **ARTWORK,** Decorum Decorative Finds; purple **VASE,** HomeSense; **BAR,** Pavilion.

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LEFT Thick charcoal grey stripes make a statement, while corals in the painting and stool fabric punch up the look.

DESK, Elegant Garage Sale; Thomas **STOOL,** Sarah Richardson Design; gold **TELEPHONE,** Office & Shop Furniture.

BOTTOM LEFT The bedroom feels bigger with floor-to-ceiling windows left unadorned.

CHAIR, Of Things Past; **TABLE LAMP, DRESSER,** Patina Antiques.

BOTTOM RIGHT Pretty jewellery hangs on a whimsical stand on the dresser.

say there was some touching-up to do later. To this day, the stripes still look better in the dark!"

In the hallway, she painted a big rectangle of robin's egg blue inside of which she hung pictures. "I was on a budget, so I didn't want to invest in panelling. This was my way of making the pictures pop," she says of her inventive idea.

Using colour to enhance a space is something that Lindsay says she learned a lot about while decorating the condo. "Before this, I'd been very safe with quiet silvers and blues, yet I would always encourage clients to explore colour and I thought, 'Wait, if I'm asking a client to invest in my creativity, shouldn't I be doing the same thing?'" Here, Lindsay really gained the confidence to push her boundaries, bringing in intense blues, deep pinks, bright yellows and sparkly accents and brass touches.

Recently married and moved into a new house, the decorista has done it all over again. Though this old condo is still close to her heart, the new place is more open and less feminine and reflects not only her own personality but also her husband's. And of course, that, too, was a challenge she relished.

FOR SOURCES,
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"If I'm asking a client to invest in my creativity, shouldn't I be doing the same thing?"

LINDSAY MENS CRAIG, HOMEOWNER

"I believe in splurging on well-built beautiful things, even if you have to cut corners elsewhere," says Lindsay. "For instance, at first I wanted to rip out the carpet in the bedroom but I ended up putting the sheepskin rugs down instead to save money because I had already splurged on the dresser."

Eloise **HEADBOARD,** Sarah Richardson Design; **HEADBOARD FABRIC,** Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; **COVERLET, EURO SHAMS,** West Elm.

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TEXT LESLEY YOUNG | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD | **STYLING** SAMANTHA PYNN

PRACTICAL magic

An ingenious facelift and a fresh new colour scheme were all this small second-floor bathroom needed to transform it into an elegant but equally functional spa-like retreat.

Designers Guild Arabella Santuzza **SHOWER CURTAIN FABRIC** in Teal, Primavera.

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While photographer Virginia Macdonald absolutely loves the colour blue, she doesn't love it on a toilet, a bathtub or a vanity sink. Unfortunately, she had to put up with just that in the cobbled-together second-floor bathroom of her 1930s semi in the trendy Toronto neighbourhood of Leslieville for 10 punishing years – literally, punishing. Thanks to the hip-wader tub (awkwardly deep due to a step in front), "I couldn't take a bath without having to do some serious yoga and gymnastics at the same time," says Virginia.

When she finally got around to transforming her only upstairs bathroom into the sophisticated and relaxing oasis she'd pined for, Virginia knew just who to call on for help: good friend and *Style at Home* contributing design editor Samantha Pynn, who was delighted to come to the rescue.

A major expansion, or even a plumbing switch, was ruled out pretty quickly. "I don't spend *that* much time in here," explains Virginia. "For one or two people, it was big enough. I wanted a drastic makeover but without having to knock down walls."

For the finishes, Samantha picked an eye-catching penny-round floor tile and a sophisticated marble countertop to provide a clean, neutral backdrop for the show-stealer: a stunning custom-made floral turquoise shower curtain. "With this design, Virginia can give the bathroom an inexpensive refresh by simply changing the colour of the paint and the shower curtain," she says.

That's not likely to happen anytime soon, though. Virginia says she looked at every colour under the rainbow and hundreds of fabric swatches before finding the perfect fit. And she's not surprised it ended up being in her favourite hue. "This space was so unappealing before, but now I just want to walk in there all the time. It's the best room in the house!"

PREVIOUS PAGE The cabinetry was custom designed to anchor the two off-centre elements: the window and the mirror. Shaker doors and minimalist hardware preserve the clean lines, directing the eye straight to the fabulous shower curtain. Thanks to the large window, no additional lighting was needed. The ceiling light and wall sconce were replaced with new schoolhouse-style ones to match the tiles, says designer Samantha Pynn.

Vanity **CARPENTRY,** Caruk Group.

TOP RIGHT Subway tiles are a classic, timeless choice, says Samantha. Instead of wrapping the entire room from floor to ceiling, they were stopped halfway up on one wall to bring in more colour with paint and give homeowner Virginia Macdonald the option of hanging a fun piece of art.

Bird's Egg 2051-60 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **FLOOR & WALL TILES,** Carpet One Floor & Home.

RIGHT The Art Deco-inspired fixtures complement the 1930s feel of the tiles.

SINK & FIXTURES, Kohler.

FAR RIGHT Virginia not only has more storage now but also a polished stage to accessorize as she likes – often with her favourite bath products. A unique gilded vanity mirror steals the scene.

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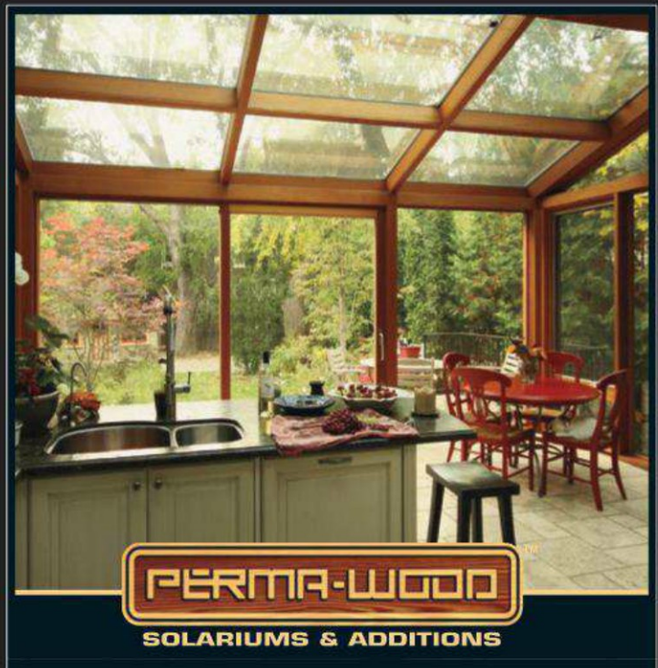

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RIGHT The step, an unwanted necessity thanks to the hidden plumbing, ended up showcasing the gorgeous penny-round marble tiles.

BELOW A handy neighbour helped solve Virginia's cumbersome-door challenge: at her request, he transformed two panels from one closet door into a mini double door. The frosted glass inserts further open up the small room.

WALL SCONCE, Rejuvenation.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Robb Whittlef,
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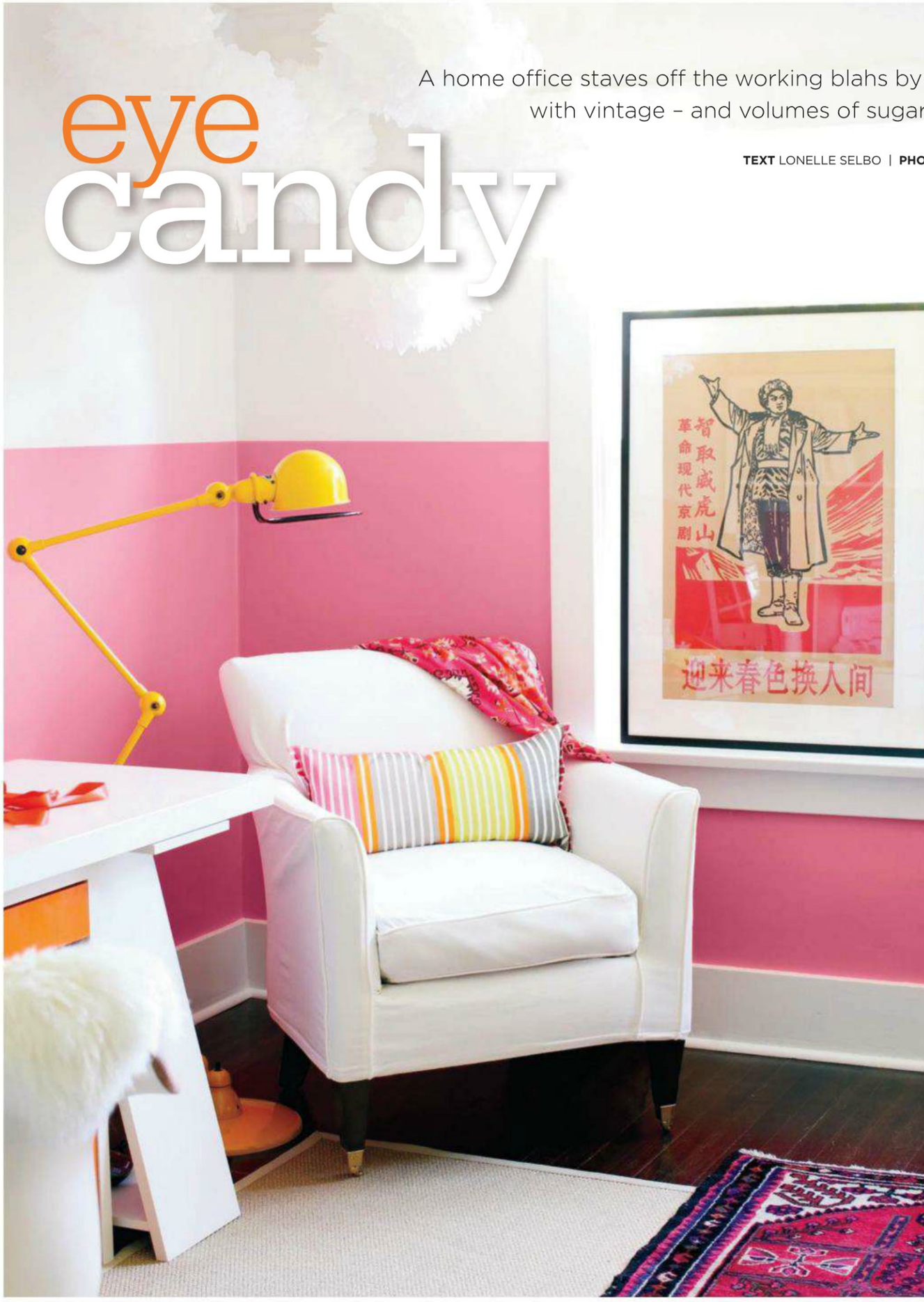
eye candy

A home office staves off the working blahs by mixing modern with vintage – and volumes of sugary-sweet colour!

TEXT LONELLE SELBO | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY



A big, bright window illuminates this cozy little reading nook during the day, while Jieldé's iconic articulating floor lamp in bold yellow beams in brightness after dark. The white slip-covered armchair was purchased from a friend, and all of the room's artwork was repurposed from other areas of the house – a smart way to declutter and stay on budget.

DESIGN, Riesco & Lapres Interior Design, riescolapres.com; sisal **RUG,** IKEA; **FLOOR LAMP,** Jieldé; silk **TOSS CUSHION,** The Cross Decor & Design.

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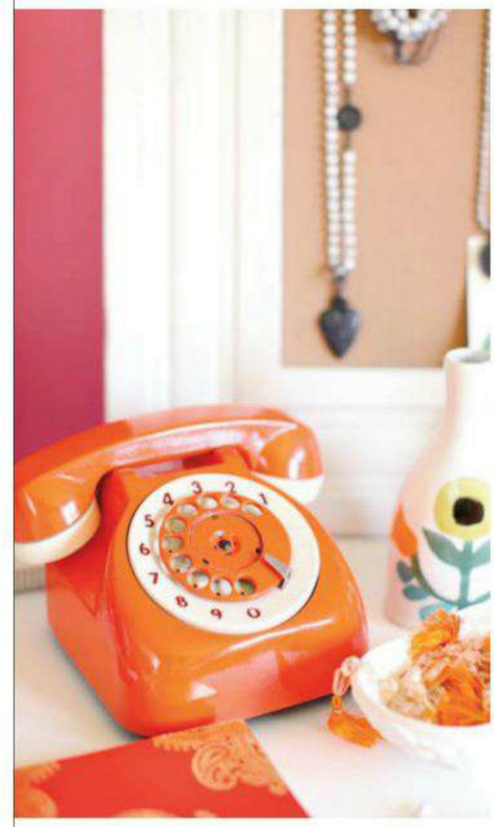
RIGHT This retro Model 500-style phone in bright, juicy orange is a souvenir from a trip to Seattle. Best of all, it's totally functional!

LEFT In her office, homeowner Shereen de Rousseau needed easy access to files, books and supplies. (Most of her flirty jewellery's design and creation are done in the studio, so here only her ideas come to life.) The cubby-style shelving system keeps everything organized in this small space, and most-used supplies are kept conveniently at hand in orange desk drawers that match the phone. The pink and white Tulip armchair was a gift from friend and designer Nancy Riesco.

SHELVING UNIT, FILE DRAWERS, DESK LEGS, IKEA.

LEFT & FAR LEFT Resting on the desk is an inspiration board fashioned from a distressed window frame fitted with a corkboard. It's where Shereen collages family photos, favourite clippings and new design concepts.

JEWELLERY, Shereen de Rousseau.



For most of us, the best thing about working from home is the simple pleasure of wearing pyjamas all day. But Vancouver-based jewellery designer Shereen de Rousseau has taken the luxury of the home office up a level. While many in-residence workspaces echo their functional but drab corporate counterparts, Shereen knew that her distinction as an up-and-coming jewellery designer demanded more. She called on her long-time friend, designer Nancy Riesco of Riesco & Lapres Interior Design, to create a happy working environment full of energy – and one that could work as a guest room as well.

"It all started with the paint colours," recalls Shereen, who opted for two-toned walls in cloud white and vivid bubble-gum pink. "We get a lot of grey days in Vancouver, so it's important for me to keep the house bright. I wanted this room to be a bit more girlie than the rest, so I chose pink!"

This canvas became the joyful backdrop for a collection of eclectic finds, ranging from designer icons to everyday accessories. "We spent lots of weekends shopping in Chinatown, on Main Street and at our favourite shops," says Nancy. "I'd see something I thought would work well and then send Shereen in to take a look. It all came together organically."

Pairing the homeowner's bold decorating instinct with a simpatico designer well →

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On Nancy's advice, Shereen painted only the lower half of the wall pink, pairing the impact of the colour on each wall with white to soften the effect. The same rule was applied to the bedding: lively mixed prints in the accent toss cushions and blanket are tempered by simple white linens. The rustic wrought-iron bed and quirky garden gnome nightstand bring a whimsical feel to the space.

BLANKET, The Cross Decor & Design.

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Mila's shade is 6R Light Red Brown.

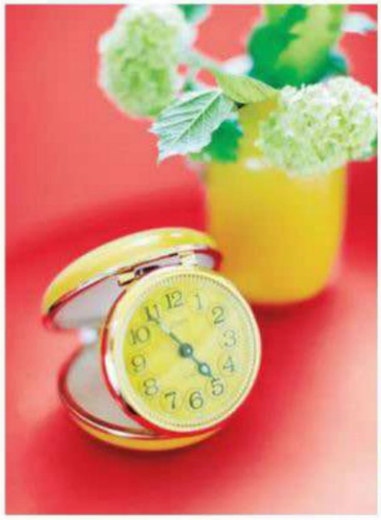
versed in colour, the room came seamlessly together piece by piece, with candy-toned accents splashing throughout the space.

The confectionery-coloured consistency of the bright, bold, saturated hues creates harmony out of a mishmash of accessories from various styles and design eras, from shabby chic to Mid-Century Modern. However, Nancy reminds colour buffs to consider the hue's strength when painting walls. In the case of Shereen's home office, dark hardwood floors and white on the upper walls, baseboards, ceiling and big furniture served as the grounding tones to set off the pink, yellow, red and orange without letting any of the colours overwhelm. "Limit the intensity of your accent colours and you can put anything you love in that room," she adds.

"One of my favourite pieces is the blanket on the bed," says Shereen. "The colours work so beautifully in the space, and it's so luxuriously soft." Other standout pieces with personality include a 1950s rotary phone revitalized in bright orange, a vintage white and pink Tulip chair and the garden gnome nightstand (Shereen calls him "Heinrich"), who cheerfully watches over Shereen while she works.

This happy home office just goes to show you that when you decorate with bright colours and accessories that showcase your own personality and taste, it can become the most cheerful of retreats – even when that retreat is your place of work.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



ABOVE While pink and white make the biggest impact, reds, yellows, greens, oranges and blues are subtly introduced in accessories, such as toss cushions.

Floral embroidered **TOSS CUSHION,** IKEA; pink and white **TOSS CUSHION** (far right), Valerianne Fine Linens.

LEFT & FAR LEFT
Vibrant accessories, from coloured-glass vases to a tiny yellow clock, shine in every candy colour of the Skittles rainbow.

get the look

How to bring candy-store colour home.

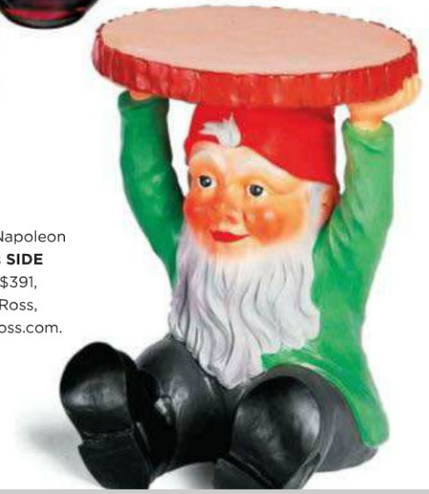
Tulip **ARMCHAIR,** from $1,677 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Berry Fleur Chinoise **TOSS CUSHION,** 24" x 24", $75 US, Caitlin Wilson Textiles, caitlin-wilsontexiles.com.

Peacock Scallop **TOSS CUSHION,** 24" x 24", $70 US, Caitlin Wilson Textiles, caitlinwilson-textiles.com.

Lotus **TOSS CUSHION** in Tangerine/White, 24" x 24", $70 US, Caitlin Wilson Textiles, caitlinwilsontextiles.com.

Salong **VASES** in Red, $15 (12¼"), $10, (7¾"), IKEA, ikea.ca.



Kartell Napoleon Gnomes **SIDE TABLE,** $391, Gabriel Ross, gabrielross.com.

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15th Anniversary Contest

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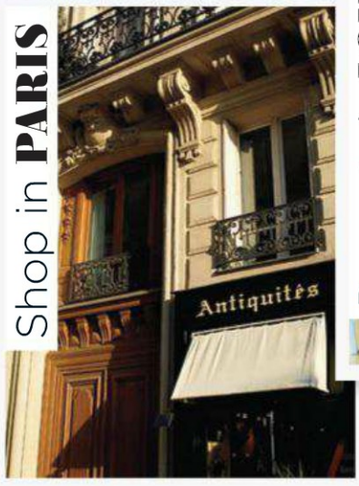

Style at Home is sending one lucky reader and a guest on the **ultimate 3-city European vacation** valued at

$15,000!

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Rome, Paris and London.

GRAND PRIZE INCLUDES*

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*Itinerary subject to change

eat·shop DECORATE styleathome

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Winner and guest will each receive a set of **Victorinox Spectra** luggage valued at over **$2,000!**

Enter to win at **www.styleathome.com/travel**

No purchase necessary. Contest starts April 9, 2012 and ends June 20, 2012. Contest is open to all legal residents of Canada, 18 years of age or older. To enter online go to: styleathome.com/travel. There is one (1) grand prize available to be won (Value: $15,000). Travel will occur in Fall/Winter 2012. One hundred random semi-finalists will be selected and asked to submit an essay and photo. Winner will be declared by judging panel. Winner and guest must have valid travel documents before they can be declared the winner. Visit styleathome.com for eligibility requirements and complete contest rules.

ROMAN HOLIDAY

Whether you're a designer, decorator or simply love great style, Rome is a hot spot for decoristas. Whatever you prefer, da Vinci or Prada, the Eternal City inspires a look that you'll want to bring home.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SIMON McBRIDE, STEVE DALTON, STACEY VAN BERKEL

Whenever we go abroad, we're always inspired by arts and culture, architecture and, of course, the shops in an exciting destination. With its rich history, culinary heritage and celebrated artwork, Rome is the epitome of classic-meets-modern style. Rome invites you to return home and cook up some spaghetti alla carbonara, set a pot of oregano on your windowsill and scrape down your kitchen cabinets to paint them the warm colour of an Italian sunset. **To get the inside scoop, *Style at Home* talked to Canada's most trusted travel and service experts, American Express, about what to experience in Rome and how to travel with ease.**

Count on American Express to give you the best tips to navigate the city. Gerry Parent, Director of Membership Travel Services, Amex Canada answers your questions.

Is Rome walkable?
Yes, but be sure to wear comfortable footwear for those cobblestone streets!

Top four historic sites?
St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican, the Colosseum and Trevi Fountain.

How do the locals order their coffee?
"Un espresso" (concentrated coffee), "ristretto" (a short shot of it), "al vetro" (in a glass), "schiumato" (with foam)...whatever it is, the Romans drink it standing at the counter!

What's the local dish?
Saltimbocca alla Romana (veal with prosciutto and sage) or bucatini alla matriciana (pasta with pecorino cheese).

3 colours inspired by Rome

Ray (SD049)
Style at Home Collection, Beauti-Tone Paint

Shoreline SR43 (P2718-04)
Sarah Richardson Designer Palette, Para Paints

Jukebox Blues (603-7)
Beauti-Tone Paint

next stop: Paris,
the City of Lights! Look for our Paris contest pages in the June issue of *Style at Home*, on sale May 7, 2012.

5 best finds in Rome

Keep a journal of your trip and make notes for your next on the pages of a **LUXURIOUS LEATHER NOTEBOOK.**

Think you know pizza? You've never tasted the real thing until you've had it at the **SFORNO PIZZA E VINO.** If the Romans say it's some of the best pizza in town, you have to believe them. Via Statilio Ottato, Rome.

Modern design at its best can be found at **ALESSI** – a kitchen utensil company founded in 1921 by Giovanni Alessi and lauded for its chic, sculptural style that makes practical pretty.

Tool around the city in an authentic **FIAT** – the largest auto maker in Italy, known for compact classic-looking cars that boast low CO2 emissions.

Sleep like a bambina when you get home on a set of **TRADITIONAL ITALIAN BED LINENS,** with their crisp, classic style.

3 ways Amex helps you travel with ease

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Now that's fabuluscious*

***Fabuluscious.** Adj. *(FAB-YOO-LUSH-SHUS)*

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MAY **2012**

AT HOME

EASY STYLE FOR LIVING, BOTH INDOORS AND OUT

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california chic | parisian elegance | modern comfort

PHOTOGRAPHY, JESSIE WALKER/MAXXIMAGES

growing in love

TEXT IRIS BENAROIA

PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH

STYLING & DESIGN LARA MCGRAW

In the dining room, traditional architectural details are juxtaposed with Mid-Century Modern furniture to elegant effect.

DESIGN, Lara McGraw, laramcgraw.com; Water Drop Jug **VASE** in Aubergine, Rina Menardi **BOWLS** in Pearl and Plum, Alma Allen Bronze **BOWL,** Mud **BOWL** in Milk, Saarinen Executive **CHAIRS,** Design Within Reach; tall glass **CANDLE HOLDERS,** Calypso Home; **ARTWORK,** Commute Home.

Wooden elements like the framed mirror, clean-lined dining table, handcrafted sideboard (shown opposite) and sculptural legs of the dining chairs add a sense of warmth to the spacious dining room.

Oversized **MIRROR,** Architectural Artifacts.

A notable house in Los Angeles's historic Hancock Park is reborn with an aesthetic that beautifully blends original architectural details, pared-down contemporary furnishings and the homeowner's Canadian roots.

"I never really loved Los Angeles until I lived here," admits former Torontonian Shereen Arazm. With a stunning two-storey Spanish Colonial Revival-style home and a garden bursting with pudgy pomegranates, glossy avocados, a regal fig tree, wild strawberries and an organic vegetable patch complete with a selection of herbs, it's easy to imagine how this place could literally grow on you.

And it's a befittingly ambrosial setting since Shereen, along with celebrated chef Mark McEwan, is a judge on Food Network's *Top Chef Canada*, which is in its second season. She is also the restaurateur who brought Toronto hot spot Terroni to Hollywood palates in 2008 – she co-owns the California version – and is behind the eatery Geisha House.

The frame of the formal living room's circular chandelier complements the other wrought-iron elements throughout the home, while the glass drops evoke a glamorous vibe. Small doses of colour appear in the accessories, artwork and fresh blooms. Homeowner Shereen Arazm had the charming artwork above the fireplace commissioned specifically for this room.

CHANDELIER, Ochre; **ARTWORK,** Cybèle Young; Water Drop Jug **VASES** in Smoke and Dark Amber, Mud Pebble **BOWL** in Slate, Design Within Reach.

"I really **LOVE IT** because the look is original. I like that the old is combined with contemporary furniture and art."

SHEREEN ARAZM, HOMEOWNER

After owning abodes in Florida and on LA's storied Mulholland Drive, Shereen and her husband, Oren Koules, along with their daughters, six-month-old Neve and Sam, 4, and Oren's son, 17-year-old Miles, made the move to Hancock Park, an affluent area dating back to the 1920s. "Hancock Park is very much a neighbourhood like you'd find in Toronto. Before, we were up in the hills with no sidewalks and it didn't feel as family oriented. This house has really changed my perspective," she says.

Shereen is smitten with the eight-bedroom home, even though she and her husband weren't drawn to it initially. "This house has a Tuscan/Spanish vibe, which wasn't our style," she says. "But I really love it now because the look is original. I like that the old is combined with contemporary furniture and art – it's difficult to straddle the line between the two, but it's done here very successfully." She credits the superlative design to Toronto stylist and designer Lara McGraw,

OPPOSITE, CENTRE Magnolias are one of the first spring flowers to bloom in Canada. This tree was planted in the backyard to remind Shereen of home.

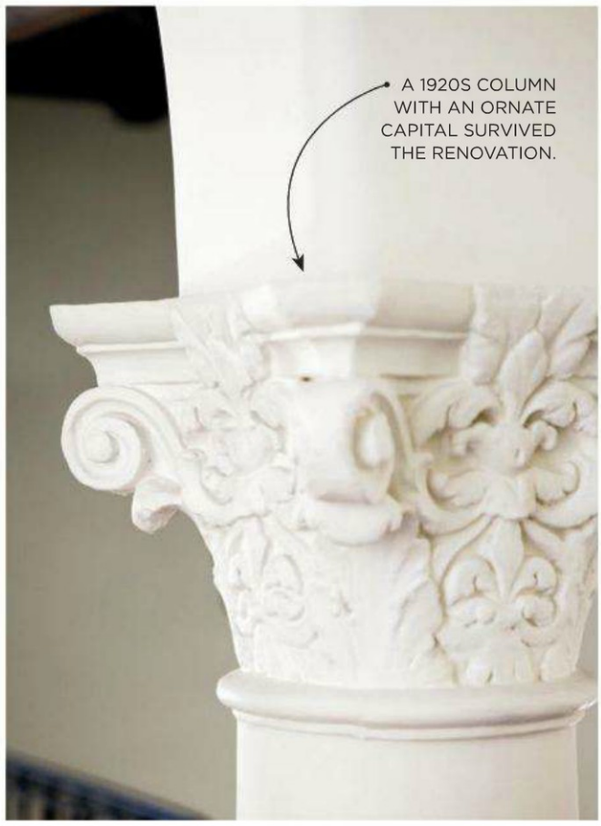
OPPOSITE, CENTRE RIGHT The barrel-vaulted main entry to the house is rich in architectural details.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT The couple loves collecting pop art. The "OK" artwork by Ed Ruscha, which happens to be Shereen's husband's initials, hangs in the foyer for impact.

TOSS CUSHIONS, Hollace Cluny.

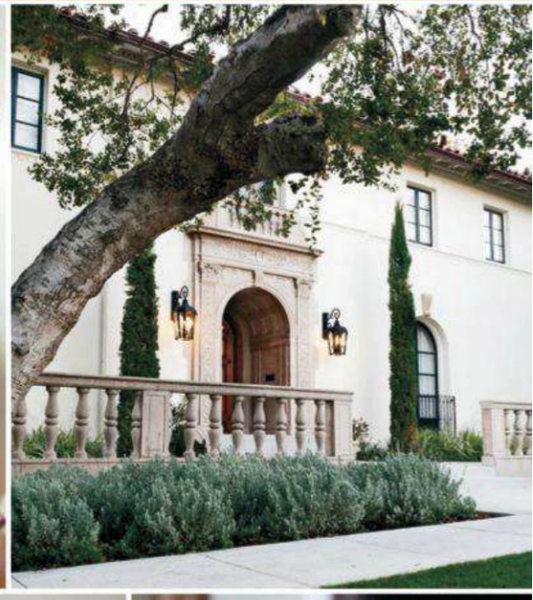
OPPOSITE, BOTTOM FAR RIGHT The warmth of a fire and books make a cozy scene.

Alma Allen Bronze **BOWL,** Design Within Reach.


A 1920S COLUMN WITH AN ORNATE CAPITAL SURVIVED THE RENOVATION.

ARCHWAYS ARE A SALIENT FEATURE OF MOORISH ARCHITECTURE.

STRIPPED TO ITS UMBER COLOUR, THE FIREPLACE MANTEL, WHICH IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOUSE, LENDS ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST AND POPS AGAINST OYSTER-WHITE WALLS.



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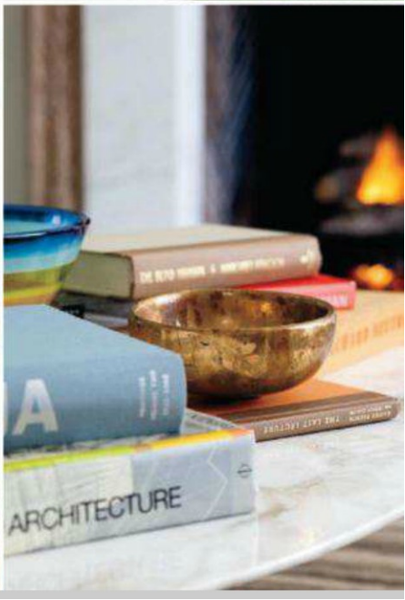
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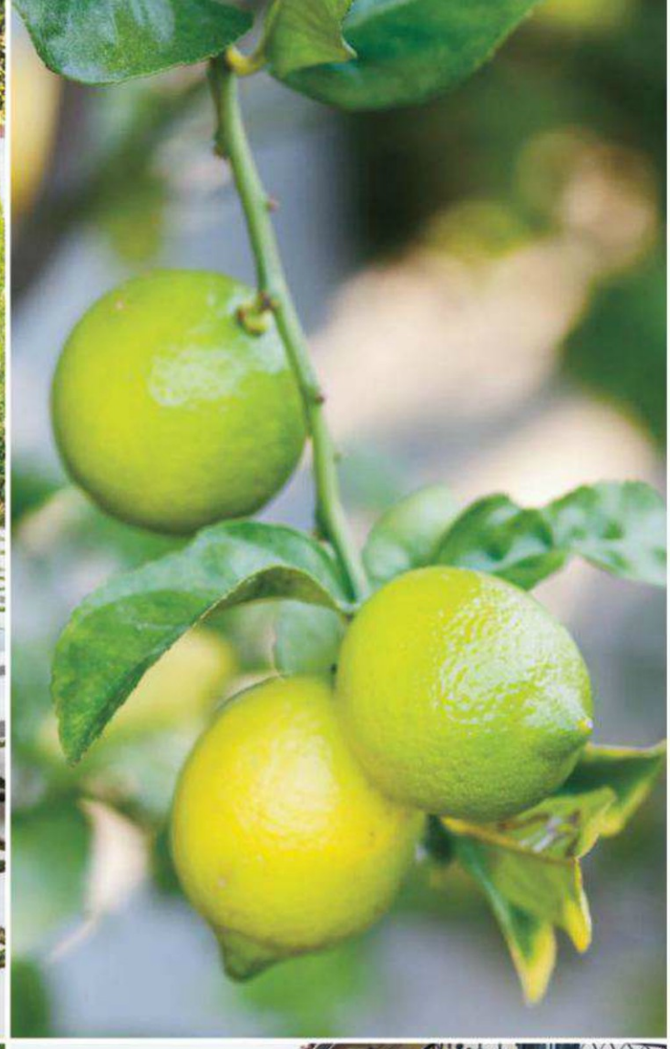


a childhood friend who worked on the couple's other homes.

Before Lara meshed the old with the new, the home was stuck in a time warp. For 70 years, it was the home of radio personality Frank Bresee, and hadn't been touched since the 1940s. "It had an icebox in the kitchen and there was no air conditioning or heating system," says Shereen. "We renovated the entire house, leaving just the herringbone floors and select architectural features." One treasure that was saved was a black wall in the basement that features the authentic signatures of such legendary figures as Elvis Presley and Natalie Wood.

For a renovation of this scope, it was surprisingly fast thanks to a crew of trusted tradespeople from Shereen's restaurants that was called in. "They had about 100 people on-site daily," says Lara of the eight-month overhaul. "The contractor [Steve Melkonian of LA's JMI Construction] was such a pleasure to work with. 'Move this wall, do this' and it was done."

TOP LEFT Low-profile indoor-outdoor furniture by the pool has a contemporary Californian vibe. Coach-style lamps add character and provide ambient light.

TOP RIGHT These limes aren't just for show; Shereen is fond of cooking at home and has a veritable produce aisle in her backyard.

LEFT A neat row of citrus trees at the side entrance is a lovely touch and practical for the family who loves freshly squeezed juice. Oranges, lemons, limes and grapefruit grow in the garden.

FAR LEFT Deep green retro wine bottles look boho chic on the terrace.

A grouping of round hanging mirrors looks casually chic on the covered terrace. Cotton canvas drapes provide perfect protection for alfresco entertaining and, when closed, create an intimate, elegant atmosphere.

Provence wicker **FURNITURE,** Restoration Hardware; woven **BENCH,** large glass **VASE,** Calypso Home; green glass **BOTTLES,** green **TOSS CUSHION,** Cisco Home.

THREE WROUGHT-IRON LIGHT FIXTURES WERE CUSTOM DESIGNED FOR THE TERRACE AND CHOSEN FOR THEIR BOLD, EXOTIC SHAPE.

THIS SASSY BRASS SPUTNIK-INSPIRED PIECE IS FROM THE COUPLE'S PREVIOUS HOME.

Satellite **CHANDELIER,** Rina Menardi Seeds **BOWL,** Design Within Reach.

BLACK BAR STOOLS PROVIDE GROUNDING CONTRAST IN THE ALL-WHITE KITCHEN. REVIVED DECADES-OLD HERRINGBONE FLOORS LOOK ESPECIALLY RICH IN THE SLEEK SPACE.

Along with upgrading the interior, the reno also entailed adding a pool and refurbishing the home's exterior and gardens.

The biggest design challenge, says Lara, was dealing with the home's size. "It's spacious, so filling it up wasn't easy," she says. But despite its grandness, the home remains exceptionally inviting. Rooms are cocooned in calming whites and greys to allow the Mid-Century Modern furnishings to pop. The iconic pieces "add something beautiful on their own, like sculptures," says Lara.

Even the kitchen – Shereen's favourite room in the house – has a serene feel. It's outfitted in pale grey cabinetry, stainless steel appliances and beautiful marble on the island, which has tons of storage, a sink and two dishwashers – useful since the family is always hosting guests.

The neutral palette also allows the arresting original wooden doors to shine. Says

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT In this chef's kitchen, big really *is* better – there's plenty of room to spread out ingredients on the island.

OPPOSITE, CENTRE A classic walnut Eames stool is versatile and has an organic shape that suits the space.

TOSS CUSHIONS, RUG, Cisco Home; **ARTWORK,** Cybèle Young.

OPPOSITE, CENTRE LEFT To maximize light, a transom window was added over the doors leading to the terrace.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT Shereen in her favourite room in the house: the kitchen!

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM FAR LEFT Banquettes are ideal when you never know how many people are coming for dinner, which is often the case with this social bunch.

Moooi **PENDANT LIGHT,** Klaus.

The unfussy kitchen has every gadget a cook would want, including a wine fridge and stainless steel Sub-Zero fridge, freezer and refrigerated drawers. A large bank of cabinets on the opposite side of the room houses a Miele espresso machine, microwave and toaster oven. Shereen calls her double Wolf range her "big daddy oven."

Jug **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Cisco Home; Rina Menardi Peel **TRAY,** Design Within Reach.

THE EXPOSED-BULB TREND MAKES A BIG STATEMENT OVER THE KITCHEN ISLAND, ADDING INDUSTRIAL FLAIR.

"They like it **UNCLUTTERED AND PEACEFUL.** They didn't want bold, strong colours, which made it easier for me because I prefer to have fun with **TEXTURES AND PATTERNS.**"

LARA MCGRAW, DESIGNER

Lara: "Shereen and Oren like the house uncluttered and peaceful. They didn't want bold, strong colours, which made it easier for me because I prefer to have fun with textures and patterns."

The outdoor terrace received Lara's soft touch as well, sporting Romanesque archways, casual round mirrors, low-slung wicker furniture and patterned toss cushions that suggest an exotic, earthy informality. Most mornings, you can find Shereen and little Sam checking out how the garden has grown. "I just taught my daughter how to make guacamole with ingredients from our garden," she says. And while the *Top Chef Canada* judge has eaten some of the best meals of her life on the show and in her travels, she concedes that there was something inexplicably extra special about this particular guacamole, enjoyed at home.

TOP LEFT For 16 years, Shereen has carted this photo of her with *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin and designer Lara McGraw (the trio are childhood friends) to every home she has ever lived in. It's even in the same frame Erin gave to her.

TOP RIGHT Mounting the retracting task lights in the master bedroom gives the room an unencumbered look. Other unassuming touches include the drapery, bed linens, toss cushions and rustic bench.

ARTWORK (above bed), Cybèle Young; small pink **BOWL,** Canvas.

LEFT The master bedroom has a separate seating area where the couple can unwind. A Noguchi coffee table and Arco floor lamp underscore their preference for simple, timeless pieces.

Mandala **RUG,** Madeline Weinrib; **BOWL,** Calypso Home.

The power of simple pieces is shown to great effect in the master bedroom. A series of chromogenic prints by Daniele Albright, a boxy tufted armchair, handsome dresser, stone bowl and white shag rug (for texture and warmth) work in harmony. The small silver pulls – a detail picked up on the chair legs – gently sparkle in the daylight.

Florence Knoll **LOUNGE CHAIR,** Gabriel Ross.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

a *french* affair

The rendered plaster-and-limestone exterior features classical architectural details like pilasters, iron railings and a clearly defined central entryway. With elements like clipped boxwood hedges and gravel paths, the landscaping also evokes a casual European feel. "It's reminiscent of a French garden," says homeowner and designer Effie Genovese.

DESIGN, The Space Agency Design, 604-738-9124; **ARCHITECTURE,** Formwerks Architectural, formwerksarchitectural.net.

Almost a decade of living in France inspired homeowner Effie Genovese to bring an updated Parisian aesthetic to her Vancouver home.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** KIM CHRISTIE

In the living room, which leads to the front garden, Effie placed an intriguing mirror framed with handcrafted metalwork above the Louis XV-inspired fireplace mantel. "I didn't want a big mirror," says Effie. "This one has a bit of mirror but is more like a work of art." The various fireplace styles throughout each room, from clean-lined to more ornate, give the house a sense of "additiveness" often seen in renovated historical homes, says architect Jim Bussey. "In Europe, one of the beautiful things about older homes is you can see that people have come along over time and added things, so there are layers upon layers of styles."

RUG, COFFEE TABLE, Elte; **OCCASIONAL CHAIR,** William Switzer & Associates; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** The Lighting Warehouse.

> "I envisioned an updated Parisian townhouse. It's modernized inside but still has all of the old charming details."
>
> EFFIE GENOVESE, HOMEOWNER & DESIGNER

ABOVE A vase of fresh peonies is part of a symmetrical grouping of accessories on the living room's large square coffee table.

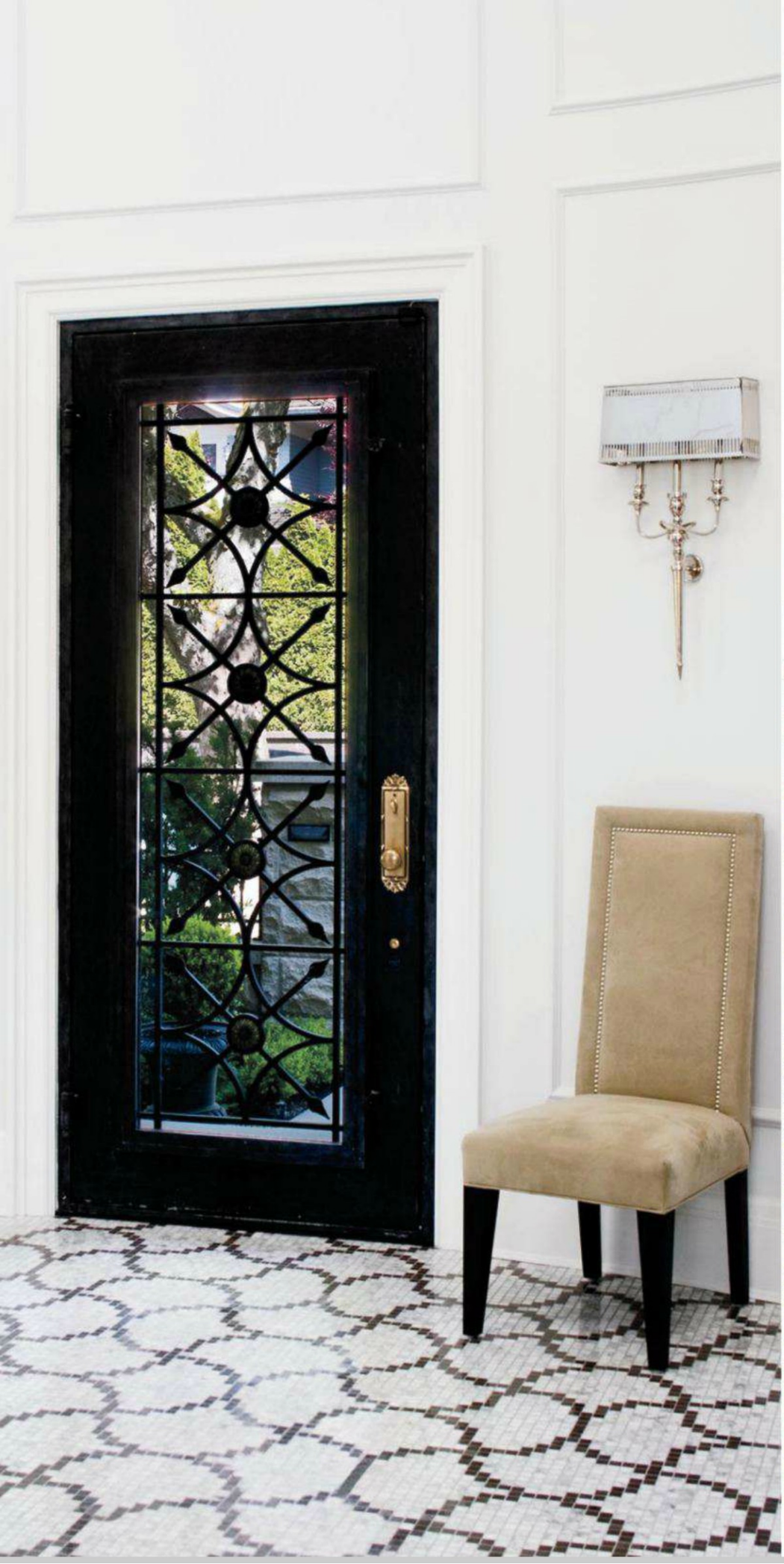
LEFT Effie and the family dog, rat terrier Decker, stand in the entryway of their beautiful Vancouver home inspired by Effie's travels abroad.

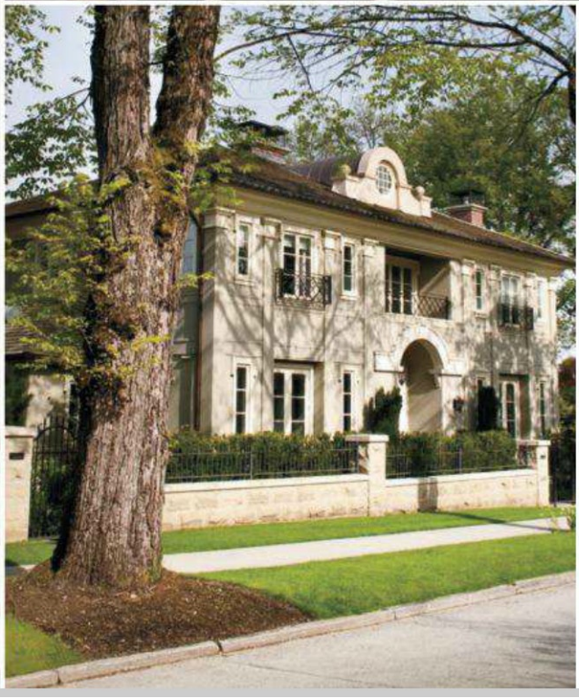
OPPOSITE Suitable for entertaining and family life, the kitchen boasts a work area where Effie's children often sit and do homework. The hard-working island incorporates a wine fridge, another beverage fridge with an icemaker ("It's great because I keep all the kids' drinks in there," says Effie) and a dishwasher drawer. A built-in hutch with glass-panelled cabinetry displays her good serving pieces and china.

It's not uncommon for homeowners to pick up design inspiration during their travels. Whether it's recreating the rustic look of an Italian farmhouse kitchen or simply throwing down a few rugs found at an Istanbul flea market, infusing homes with ideas and items discovered abroad always gives a space a touch of personality and soul. Vancouver designer Effie Genovese used the same approach when it came to her own home, only on a much grander scale. It's no surprise, considering it wasn't just a quick jaunt across the pond that inspired her aesthetic but almost a decade of living and raising a family in the south of France.

When it came time to build this 5,000-square-foot dwelling three years ago, Effie, who has been back in Vancouver since 2005 and runs the firm The Space Agency Design, wanted the house to complement the historical homes in its established Vancouver neighbourhood and reference something plucked out of Paris. (While living in France, Effie visited Paris regularly, trolling the flea markets and taking in the *belle époque* vibe.) "I envisioned an updated Parisian townhouse," says Effie, "like a house that you would find in Paris that had been renovated. It's modernized inside but still has all of the old charming details."

Working with Jim Bussey, principal architect of Formwerks Architectural, she created an elegant, stately home that melds classical architecture with design that's modern and chic. While subtle style differences are evident from room to room, the same sentiment underscores this entire bright and airy home. Old-world elements like mosaic floors, iron railings, ornate chandeliers, soaring ceilings, tall windows and chunky mouldings evoke an old Parisian home, but Effie brings it into the 21st century with a pared-back sensibility, →





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
The combination of recessed panelled cabinetry, a mix of marble and limestone countertops, chunky mouldings and a light grey palette creates an elegant, timeless aesthetic in the kitchen; a conservatory built off the kitchen serves as a light-filled eating nook; the entry hall, which doubles as the home's formal dining space, has a round wooden table that extends to seat 14 people; the antique crystal chandelier, which Effie brought back from Paris, offsets the clean, contemporary lines of the table and chairs in the conservatory; the exterior architecture of this three-year-old house complements the historical homes found in the treelined neighbourhood while still referencing Parisian charm in the details; elements like the marble mosaic flooring and the door's ironwork lend the space graphic interest and Parisian sophistication.

Custom **CABINETRY,** Westwerk Built-Interiors; **COUNTERTOPS,** Simply Stones; **BACKSPLASH TILE,** Creekside Tile Company; **CABINET HARDWARE, STOOLS,** Restoration Hardware; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Robinson Lighting & Bath Centre; **CONSERVATORY CONSTRUCTION,** Four Seasons Sunrooms; Boulevard **DINING TABLE,** Once a Tree Furniture; custom **DINING CHAIRS,** Residence Interiors; **BLINDS,** Westside Window Coverings & Design; **ARTWORK,** Norah Borden.

"There's lighting in that recess that shines up onto the ceiling, so at night it has a beautiful glow."

JIM BUSSEY, ARCHITECT

"Everything in this house is classically driven yet highly usable."

JIM BUSSEY, ARCHITECT

a transitional mix of furnishings and practical family-friendly functionality. "It's a classically driven plan," says Jim, "but it has lots of modern updates that don't conflict with it. And while the house is quite formal in many respects, it's a family-oriented house that's casual for everyday use."

"I wanted a family home, obviously," says Effie, who shares the space with her 15-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son and their seven-year-old rat terrier, Decker, "and also something that's good for entertaining." To that end, the home was designed so the front door leads straight into a round double-volume entry hall that also serves as an entertaining space made for hosting cocktail parties and large dinners. Featuring a domed ceiling, curved staircase and wood-burning fireplace, "it's a hall in the traditional sense somewhat referring back to very large manor houses," says Jim. "It has a classical soul."

Beyond the vast entryway, an expansive doorway leads straight into the hard-working kitchen and comfortable family room, which in turn leads outside to a covered lounge area sitting right next to the pool. "People love that space," says Effie. "It has the fireplace and built-in heaters, so we can use it year-round. After dinner, a lot of people go out there and sit by the fire, and the guys maybe smoke a cigar. The pool is lit up, which creates a nice mood, and there are hedges and flowers all around. It's just really cozy."

One thing's for sure: While foreign inspiration has become familiar in home design, this house's blend of timeless formality, modern-day elegance and relaxed attitude is not so easy to come by. "I've coined a new phrase for this casual, elegant and European look," says Jim, who is presently working on two more projects with Effie. "I call what I build for her 'Effie-style.'"

FOR SOURCES AND PHOTOS OF EFFIE'S OUTDOOR SPACE, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

OPPOSITE The master bedroom showcases a vaulted ceiling and an ornamental frieze detail, which complements the space's feminine aesthetic and hides a more practical feature: "There's lighting in that recess that shines up onto the ceiling, so at night it has a beautiful glow," says Jim. An oversized crystal-and-glass chandelier fills the vastness of the room. "It makes everything more cozy," says Effie.

BENCH, Restoration Hardware; **DRAPERY,** Westside Window Coverings & Design.

ABOVE This pair of stunning heels is part of Effie's extensive shoe collection, which is housed in a dressing room adjacent to the master bedroom.

RIGHT Enveloping the bathroom, marble imparts a fresh, sophisticated look. "Marble reminds me of the old, grand European hotels," says Effie. "There's something very French and elegant about it."

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH

AGENT'S *delight*

Toronto realtor Kara Reed has seen a lot of homes during her 21-year career. So what made her choose this 1980s condo for her very own?

Homeowner Kara Reed reserved a special kitchen corner for her cookbook collection. "Whenever I can, I get the chefs to autograph them," she says.

Picture it: You spend your days walking through homes of every possible size, shape and style. Basically, you've seen every type of dwelling there is. Then comes the time to downsize your own home. How do you, a realtor, decide what to buy?

"You have to know your non-negotiables," says Kara Reed, a familiar favourite on HGTV's *Sarah's House* series. "For me, that meant having enough room for Brier, my lovable chocolate Lab, and having access to green space." So even though Kara's initial condo search focused on trendy lofts and slick, modern living spaces in the city, she opted out. "I just didn't want to give up seeing trees outside for stylish details inside," she says. That's when Carol Reed, her then sister-in-law and current design guru, stepped in. "She said to me, 'Why don't you quit looking for an interior you love and start looking for an ideal location. After all, you can create a dream interior anywhere.'

A muted palette lends the kitchen a soothing look. The standout marble backsplash acts as a feature wall, visible from the main living area.

DESIGN, Carol Reed Interior Design, carolreeddesign.com; Pointing 2003 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Farrow & Ball; antique ash **FLOORING** (throughout), Bousada Interiors; **APPLIANCES,** Caplan's Appliances; Ädel **CABINETRY,** IKEA.

"Quit looking for an interior you love and start looking for an ideal location. You can create a dream interior anywhere."

CAROL REED, DESIGNER

Although neutrals are everywhere, greens and golds give the living room a modern, warm feeling. Curves in the form of a 100-year-old table (set in the corner), a wavy cowhide and a contemporary mirror-and-iron side table keep the room from feeling rigid.

Vintage Grete Jalk **COFFEE TABLE,** Zig Zag; Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams **SLIPPER CHAIR, COWHIDE, SCONCE,** Elte; large mirror-and-iron Jules **SIDE TABLE,** Crate and Barrel; *Rhapsody* **ARTWORK,** Henry Asencio.

TOP The dark breakfast bar provides bold distinction between the kitchen and dining room in the light-filled, open-concept condo. Designer Carol Reed ensured that the ceiling in the kitchen remained lower than the one in the living and dining areas to distinguish one space from the other.

ABOVE, LEFT White dishes are a signature style of Kara's, and displaying them on the kitchen's open shelving is as practical as it is beautiful.

ABOVE, RIGHT Carol had the IKEA cabinetry customized with gables. The cabinets were also painted the colour of the walls for a built-in look.

RIGHT Kara (left) and Carol have long worked well together. "She completely gets my style," says Kara.

And that's how I ended up with a wonderful three-level condo with a 400-square-foot rooftop deck and a breakfast balcony in Toronto's quaint Summerhill neighbourhood."

Of course, it wasn't quite as simple as that. For one, the building, designed in the 1970s and built in the 1980s, was rife with the hallmarks of its day: smoked Plexiglas, mirrored walls, pink granite, stucco ceilings and splashy brass fixtures everywhere you looked. These dated details had to go – as did a wall or two. "Essentially, it was a total gut job," says Kara. "The only original remaining detail when we finished was a marble walk-in shower in one bathroom." The duo oversaw the eight-month-long project, including all the requisite renovation mishaps. "I'd gone to a quarry myself to hand-pick the marble for the backsplash," recalls Kara. "But when it came time to install it, we discovered it wouldn't fit in the elevator." In the end, it had to be cut in half. "But hey, we got it up there," she says with a laugh.

Now Kara wakes up in a light-filled, east-facing home. She enjoys breakfasts and lunches on the balcony, and savours wine on the rooftop deck under the romance of the setting sun. "Maybe

it's because I grew up in rural Ontario, but, for me, having views of greenery and hearing the birds, insects and even raccoons are so important," says Kara.

Inside, the look is contemporary, with a sit-down-and-relax style that's immediately compelling. This is thanks to Kara's emphasis on comfortable furniture with simple lines and the way she incorporates special pieces, such as her grandmother's side table, her extensive cookbook collection and her favourite travel photos, into her decor.

To ensure that these personal touches get the gallery-like attention they deserve, Kara says that selecting "the perfect white" for the walls is key. So, how do you choose the perfect white? Kara laughs before she admits, "We painted about 10 samples on the wall, then eliminated them one at a time." Finally, looking for things like warm and cool undertones versus how the samples changed with the light, they decided on Farrow & Ball's classic Pointing 2003.

Even with white walls, the rooms aren't cold. Golden yellows and mossy greens find easy expression, coming off as organic and unobtrusive as the greenery outside. "The palette inspiration was actually pulled from a piece of art," says Kara.

This organic influence is typical of Kara's decorating style. She eases into it and now lets location be her guide. "I've learned that each home is different and that my taste is always changing. What remains over time is the little things like having Brier nearby, stacking my dishes a certain way or how I make a bed. Whether it's in this condo or elsewhere, I'll always make hospital corners," she says with a smile.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

LEFT "Fresh flowers are an everyday staple for me," says Kara. "They're not just for special occasions."

TOP Mirrors and floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors (that lead to one balcony) make the dining area airy and bright, ensuring that light and reflections are always at play.

CHANDELIER, South Hill Home; wire **BOWL,** Crate and Barrel.

ABOVE, LEFT A barely-there pendant by Moooi makes a big but subtle statement in the stairwell.

Moooi Random **PENDANT LIGHT,** YLighting.

ABOVE, RIGHT Even on the balcony, the look is clean and modern. A marble-topped table keeps the space feeling indoorsy. As is the case inside, fresh flowers are always in view. Here, it's peonies that add a little burst of spring colour.

Saarinen-style **DINING TABLE & CHAIRS,** Nuevo.

"Essentially, it was a total gut job. The only original remaining detail when we finished was a marble walk-in shower." KARA REED, HOMEOWNER

A high-end Mid-Century Modern Mies van der Rohe chair serves as both art and comfort in the living room. Kara's family photos are framed and leaned here and there for a look that's both casual and graphic.

FLOOR LAMP, Shelter Furniture; photography **PRINTING & FRAMING,** Elevator Digital.

Fresh ideas for homemade toppings make delicious burgers the talk of the town.

you complete me

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CLAIRE STUBBS

PHOTOGRAPHY
EDWARD POND

PROP STYLING
LARA MCGRAW

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Moms just know.

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As with any great pairing, equality is key to creating a successful lasting relationship that will be talked about for years to come. In the movies, for example, the charismatic leading man needs to be carefully matched with the spirited young ingenue in order for the chemistry to work and the film to become an enduring classic, while in decorating, colour needs to be skillfully balanced with scale, proportion and texture to ensure a lovely room. In the world of food, it's flavours that need to mingle harmoniously, developing dishes that entice without one ingredient overpowering the others. Luckily for us, grilling season coincides with growing season in our part of the globe, so we can combine our love of barbecue with our yen for fresh fruits and veggies to spectacular effect. Here, we're featuring the ultimate beef burger recipe and then boldly topping it off with a selection of savoury homegrown accompaniments that not only stand up to the delicious taste of the beef on its own, but go just as well with other burgers, too, such as salmon, chicken, soy and lentil.

BEST JUICY BEEF BURGERS

MAKES 4 BURGERS

- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup finely diced white onion
- 2 tsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tbsp water
- 1 lb coarsely ground beef, preferably chuck
- 1 tsp Maldon sea salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper

Heat the olive oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic, onion and rosemary and sauté for 2 minutes, until the onion is just beginning to soften. Let cool slightly and then gently add the mixture to a large bowl along with the water, ground beef, salt and pepper. Divide the mixture into four parts and flatten gently with your palm to form patties about ¾" thick. Refrigerate for 30 minutes before grilling.

Heat the barbecue to medium heat. When hot, lightly brush the patties with a little olive oil and place on the grill. Cook for 4 minutes per side, until the bottoms are beginning to caramelize and gently char. Flip once. Resist the urge to move them around too much or to press down with a spatula as you will lose all the burgers' juices. Cook for 2 to 3 more minutes for a medium burger. Serve immediately with toppings.

TIP The best, juiciest burgers are made with meat that's not too lean, which results in a dry burger, and not too finely ground, which will render a burger that lacks texture and flavour. Likewise, overworking the meat when mixing in the seasonings will toughen the burger. Have your butcher grind a mixture with a 20 percent fat ratio using a coarse grind. Gently press the meat into patties, leaving a little air inside instead of squeezing them into perfect circles.

LEMON MAYO & ROASTED PEPPER TAPENADE

LEMON MAYO

MAKES 1 CUP

- 2 free-range organic egg yolks
- ½ tsp Dijon mustard
- 3 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ½ tsp Maldon sea salt
- 1 cup vegetable oil

Place the egg yolks, mustard, lemon juice and salt in the bowl of a food processor. Pour in the vegetable oil in a slow, fine stream with the processor running, until the mixture begins to thicken and bind. Be careful not to add the oil too quickly or the mayo could separate. Remove the mayo from the processor and serve immediately.

ROASTED PEPPER TAPENADE

MAKES 2 CUPS

- 2 red bell peppers
- ½ cup finely chopped kalamata olives
- ½ cup finely chopped pimento-stuffed green olives
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ cup finely diced sweet onion
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup capers
- ½ cup finely chopped fresh parsley

To roast the peppers, slice off the tops, remove the seeds and place cut side down on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Roast at 375°F for 35 to 40 minutes, until blistered and soft. Place the peppers in a bowl and cover for 5 minutes to steam the skins for easy removal. Peel away the skins and discard. Finely dice the peppers and

The season's best burgers need flavourful, easy condiments in order to shine.

Round out a mouth-watering burger with savoury garlic fries. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/FRENCHFRIES.**

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†Provides 2/3 fruit and 1/3 vegetable serving per container. *Canada's Food Guide* recommends 5-10 daily servings of fruit and vegetables. 1 serving = 1/2 cup
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Lara serves up style

Prop stylist Lara McGraw has the best eye in the business for the perfect pieces to set the table. "The beginning of summer means sunshiny shades of yellow and chartreuse to complement the freshness of new flowers and greenery," she says. Pair the palette with pure white for impact.

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place in a bowl. Add the remaining ingredients to the bowl, mixing well to combine.

For a different taste, serve on chicken burgers with melted provolone cheese, arugula and thin slices of ripe tomato on rosemary focaccia.

CORN & CUCUMBER CRUNCH

MAKES 4 CUPS

- 2 cups fresh-cut corn niblets (from 4 cobs)
- 1 cup finely diced red pepper (about 1 pepper)
- 1 cup finely diced red onion
- 1 cup diced English cucumber (about 1 small cucumber)
- 2 finely diced jalapeño peppers
- 2 cups white vinegar
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp kosher salt
- 1 tbsp fennel seeds

Bring all the ingredients to a boil in a large pot over high heat. Reduce the heat to medium and gently simmer for 20 to 25 minutes, stirring occasionally, until most of the liquid is absorbed and the vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat and let cool. Transfer to a dish and serve immediately.

Enjoy on salmon or tuna burgers with Boston lettuce and mayonnaise on a soft brioche bun for an alternate serving suggestion. Relish will keep for two weeks in the refrigerator in a sealed jar.

TOMATO & ONION CHUTNEY

MAKES ABOUT 2 CUPS

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 cups chopped sweet onion
1½ lbs campari-style tomatoes, quartered
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup apple cider vinegar
1 tsp Maldon sea salt
1 tbsp mustard seeds

In a large heavy-bottomed pot, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and onion and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes, until the onion is softened. Add the tomatoes, brown sugar, vinegar, salt and mustard seeds and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for about 40 to 45 minutes, until the tomatoes have broken down and become syrupy and caramelized and the juices have evaporated, stirring often during the last 10 minutes of cooking. Remove from the heat and cool completely before serving.

Try the tomato and onion chutney on grilled beef burgers with crispy bacon, cheddar cheese and romaine lettuce on a toasted sesame bun.

And it all started with aromatic McCormick® Gourmet Italian Seasoning.

McCormick Gourmet Mediterranean Pasta with Fire-Roasted Tomatoes

All you need

2 lb (1 kg) plum tomatoes (10 – 12), halved lengthwise
½ cup (125 mL) olive oil, divided
1 tbsp (15 mL) McCormick Gourmet Italian Seasoning
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ tsp (2 mL) McCormick Gourmet Crushed Red Pepper
¼ tsp (1 mL) McCormick Gourmet Coarse Ground Black Pepper
½ tsp (2 mL) sea salt
8 oz (227 g) pasta, such as spaghetti or fettuccine

All you do

Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Place tomatoes, cut sides up, on foil-lined baking sheet. In a small bowl, combine ¼ cup (50 mL) olive oil, garlic and spices. Spoon over tomatoes. Drizzle with 2 tbsp (30 mL) of the remaining oil.

Bake for 45 minutes or until tomatoes are soft and browned on top.

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain well.

Coarsely mash ½ of the tomatoes with remaining 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil. Add pasta and remaining tomatoes; toss to mix well. Makes 6 servings.

For more great-tasting recipes, visit mccormickgourmet.com or call 1-800-265-2600

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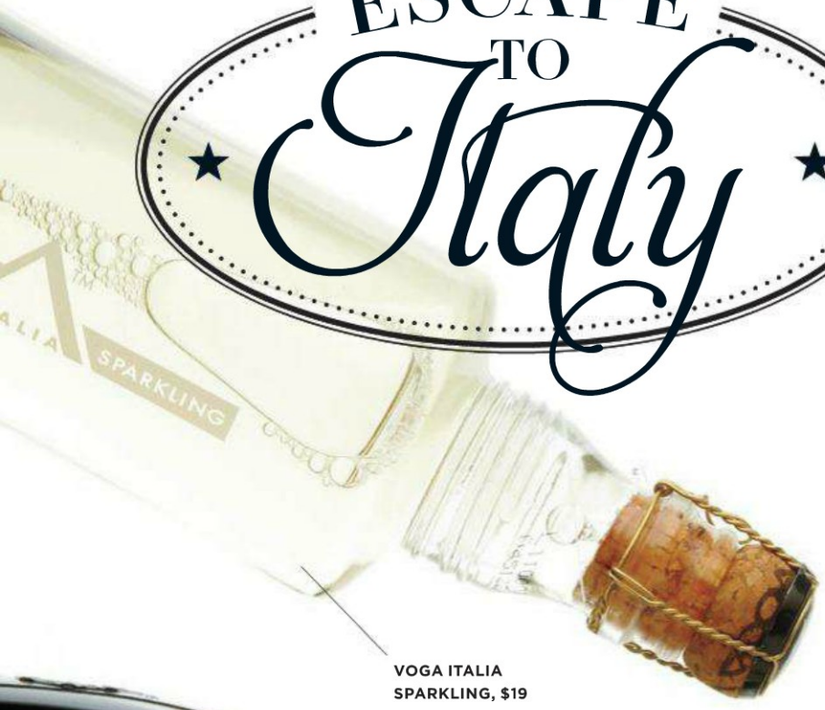
CASTELLARE DI CASTELLINA CHIANTI CLASSICO, $19

ESCAPE TO Italy

Italians just get it: They know how to eat, work, play and drink. It's all about living and loving every single moment (with a nice glass of vino, of course). Italy has ideal conditions to grow and make wine because of the Apennine Mountains, which run through the centre of the country, from north to south. The mountainous terrain offers varied elevations, altitudes, soils and climates for grapevines to grow, resulting in unique wines that reveal *la bella vita* of the Italians through each sip.



VOGA ITALIA SPARKLING, $19

BOLLA AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA, $37

BLU GIOVELLO PINOT GRIGIO, $13

WHAT'S ON THE LABEL?

Most Italian wines are labelled by their region or village, not necessarily by grape varietal (although this is more common with red than white wines). Crafty new blends may not meet the rigid standards to have the regional name appear, so they'll often create their own name (for example, a Super Tuscan blend like Tignanello).

VINO BIANCO

Italy produces many outstanding whites, such as Pinot Grigio, Friulano, Trebbiano and Vermentino. They're crisp, refreshing and easy on the pocketbook. In true Italian fashion, whites from all over Italy are perfect for lounging on the terrace and pair nicely with a leisurely summer lunch.

VINO ROSSO

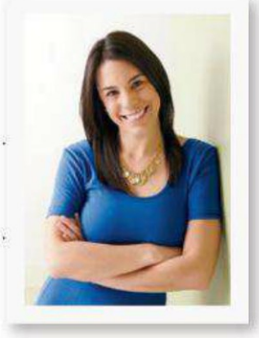
Smooth yet bold, Italian reds rarely disappoint. Among the most popular, Amarone della Valpolicella, commonly known as Amarone, is a rich-tasting wine produced with grapes that are dried, then pressed. It's made in Valpolicella, an area in northern Italy in the region of Veneto. *Amarone* translates to "the great bitter" (although it's not a bitter wine) and is a blend of three grape varietals: Corvina, Rondinella and Molinara.

Nebbiolo is a grape variety that's grown in Piedmont and used to make Barolo and Barbaresco. Further south, Sangiovese is the grape of picturesque Tuscany behind the labels of Chianti, Chianti Classico, Rosso di Montalcino, Brunello di Montalcino and Rosso di Montepulciano.

BUDGET BUBBLIES

Sparkling wines from Italy are simply delicious and won't break the bank. Enjoy a Prosecco or Moscato d'Asti (the sweeter of the two) in a sparkling cocktail for special occasions or, my personal favourite, as the perfect brunch companion – although I do believe that every day deserves a little bubbly!

FOR WINE PAIRINGS, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

Wine expert **Angela Aiello** is the founder of the iYellow Wine Club (iyellowwineclub.com), which hosts regular events, classes and tours where members can build wine confidence and appreciation through discovery.

For more thirst-quenching recipes and tips, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/WINEANDSPIRITS.**

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When Dante Alighieri was exiled from Florence, he was unable to finish his magnum opus, Inferno. But in 1302, the poet Dino Frescobaldi recovered and returned the first seven cantos of Dante's work, allowing the poem to continue. Giovanni Boccaccio, Dante's greatest biographer, recorded this event in history.

Today, Villa di Remole is home to the family of another Dino Frescobaldi, a descendent of the poet. The wine Remole takes its name from this location, and its elegance is born of the love and devotion passed down from generation to generation.

Remole Toscana IGT

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Marchesi de' FRESCOBALDI

patio perfection

a french affair **FROM PAGE 120**

LEFT & BOTTOM LEFT
With a massive brick-and-concrete fireplace, built-in heaters and a high tongue-and-groove ceiling, the outdoor lounge area can be used almost year-round. Exotic-looking Moroccan lanterns (one shown) offset the space's clean lines. "And when they're lit at night, they add a bit of sparkle," says homeowner Effie Genovese.

Catalina metal **CHAIRS,** Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com; **COFFEE TABLE,** Liberty, libertyliving.ca; **HANGING LANTERN,** Peridot Decorative Homewear, peridot.ca; **SIDE TABLE,** Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

BELOW & BOTTOM RIGHT
The curvaceous nature of the woven table and chairs, which offer alfresco dining by the pool, brings the look of the indoors out. "I thought they were really different," says Effie, "and I didn't want anything too modern out there."

TABLE & CHAIRS, The Bay, thebay.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, KIM CHRISTIE

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project of the month

style news FROM PAGE 35

Style at Home managing editor and resident crafter Catherine Therrien.

how to make fabric-covered pots

MATERIALS

Fabric
Scissors
Clay pots
Mod Podge (matte finish)
Foam brush

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Gather your favourite fabrics (remnants are perfect for this project). Cut a large enough piece of fabric to wrap around the pot once. Remember to leave a few inches on the top and bottom to fold over the edges.

2. Start by coating a small section of the pot with Mod Podge using a foam brush. Place the length of the fabric along the coated surface. Work your way around the entire pot, continuing the same process of coating a small section of the pot with Mod Podge and covering the coated area with fabric. Be sure to pull the fabric taut and press it firmly against the pot with your fingers to remove any air bubbles and ensure maximum contact with the pot.

3. After covering the entire pot once in fabric, cut the excess with scissors, allowing for just a slight overlap where the edges meet. Cut the extra fabric from the top and bottom, leaving about an inch.

4. Coat the rim and inside of the pot while folding the fabric over the edge into the pot in pleats. Repeat the same process for the bottom, folding the fabric in pleats.

5. Coat the entire pot (inside and out) with Mod Podge. Place the pot on a wire rack and let dry fully. Apply as many coats as desired.

source guide

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A

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B

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ycocarpet.com

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tastings

perfect pairings FROM PAGE 144

Pigmentum Malbec, France, $14

Masi Masianco Pinot Grigio & Verduzzo, Italy, $14

Zenato Veneto Rosso, Italy, $12

Vineland Estates Semi-Dry Riesling, Ontario, $14

Sledgehammer Zinfandel, California, $18

Wine expert Angela Aiello selects five matches for our juicy beef burger and fresh, homemade toppings (page 134).

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PORTRAIT)

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COMING MAY 7

PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHEL DUBE

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AND MUCH MORE! Summer's trendiest palette; IKEA's Malm dresser done three ways; a Canadian's gorgeous home in the Bahamas; summer-fresh recipes.

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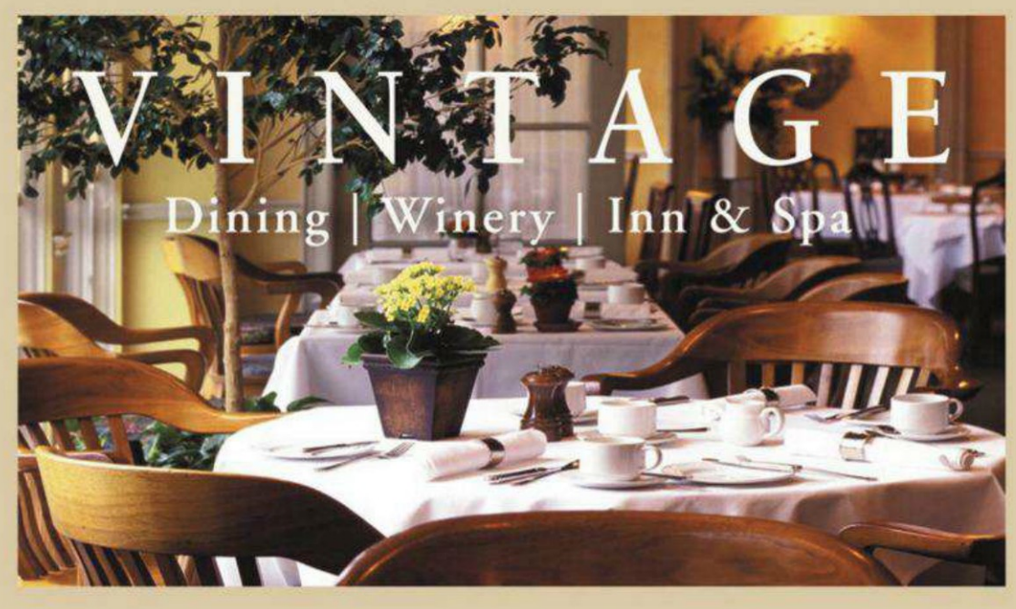

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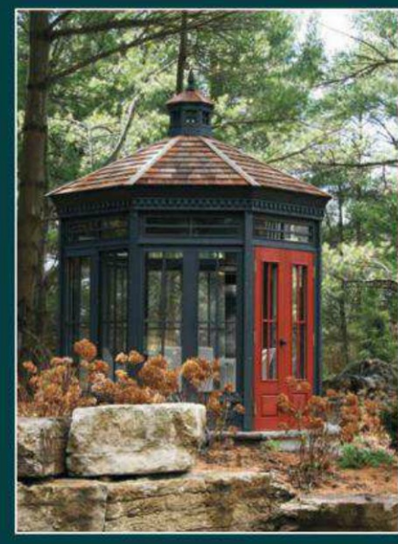

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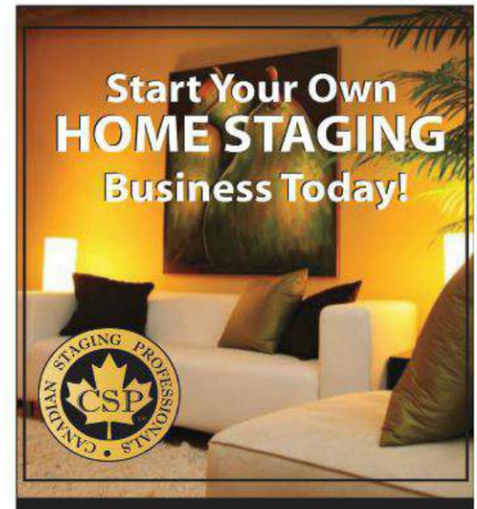

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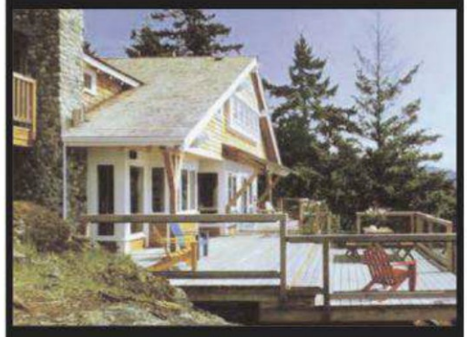

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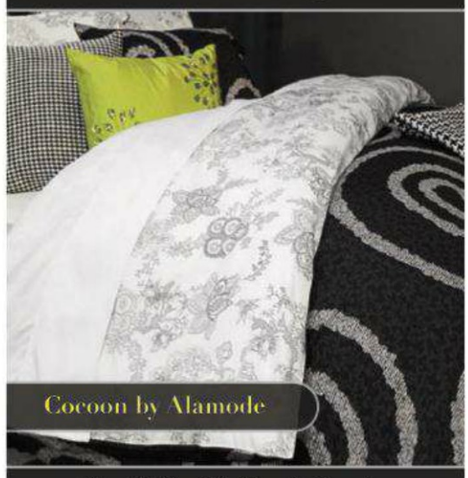

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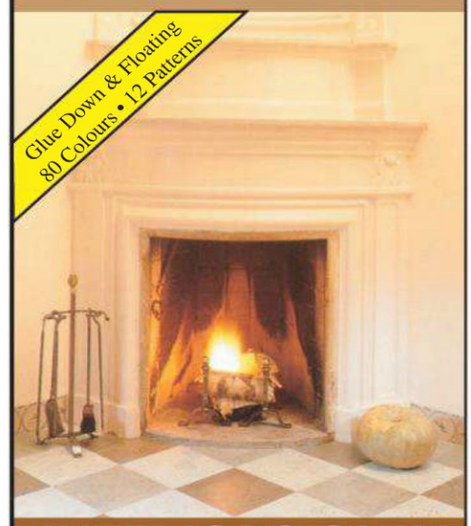

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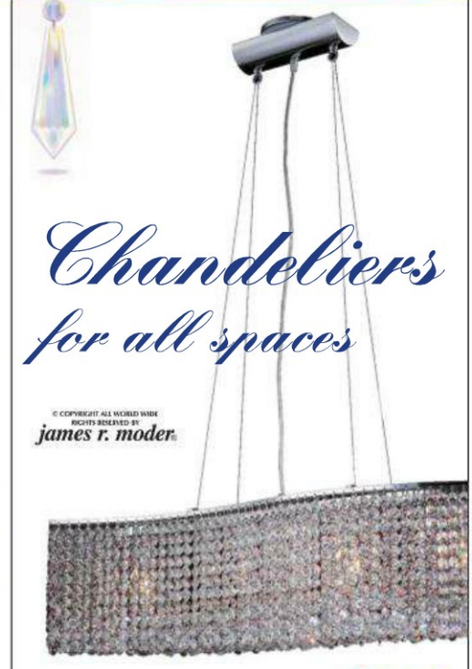

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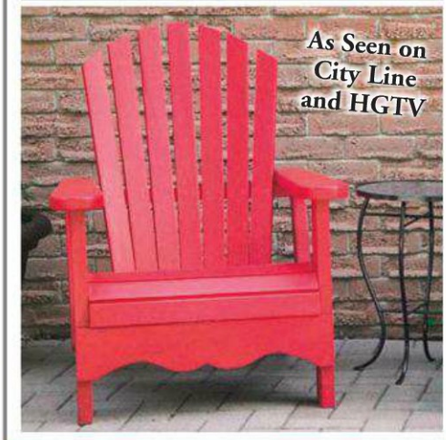

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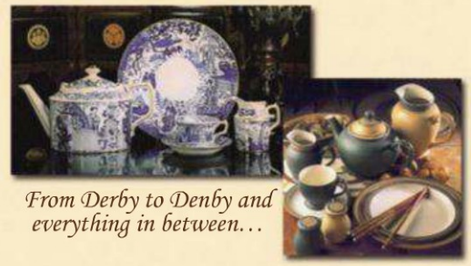

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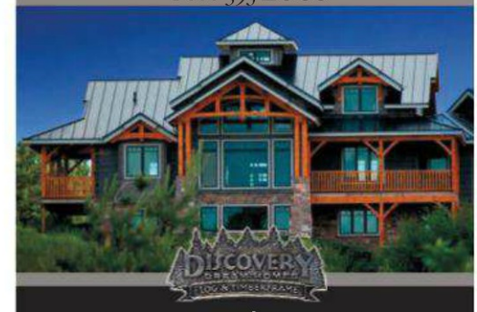

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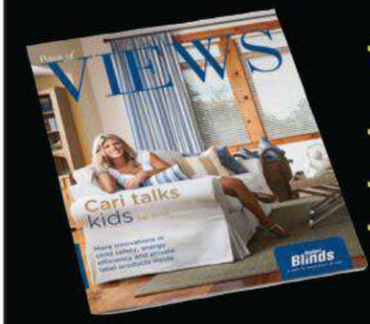

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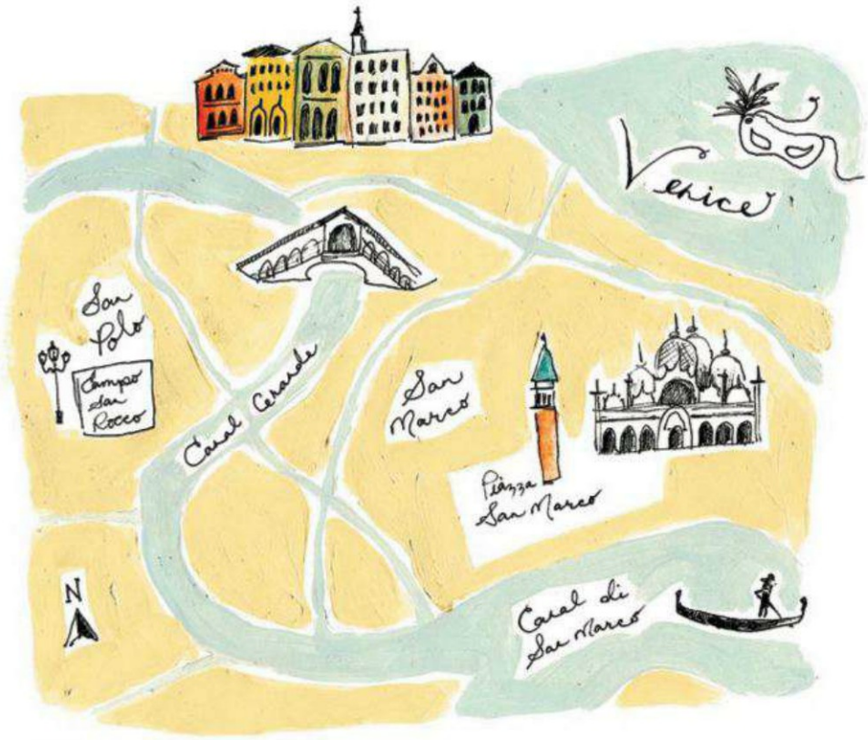
There are no cars on the winding streets of Venice. All transportation is by water, or on foot.

VENICE, ITALY

It's hard not to be romanced by the narrow streets and decorative footbridges that line the canals of this historic Italian destination. We've been swept off our feet by all this city of *amore* has to offer.



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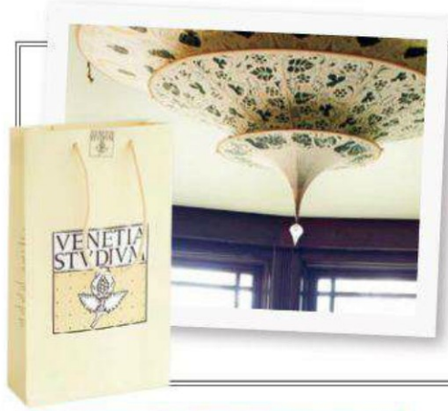
Acquiring its charming name from the Italian word for paper (*carta*), this unconventional shop specializes in producing handmade cotton paper using the country's traditional techniques. The artisanal paper feels as good as it looks and is perfect for sending handwritten letters home with all the fabulous tales of your travels.

Calle Lunga 2125 Santa Croce, cartavenezia.it.



SHOP VENETIA STUDIUM

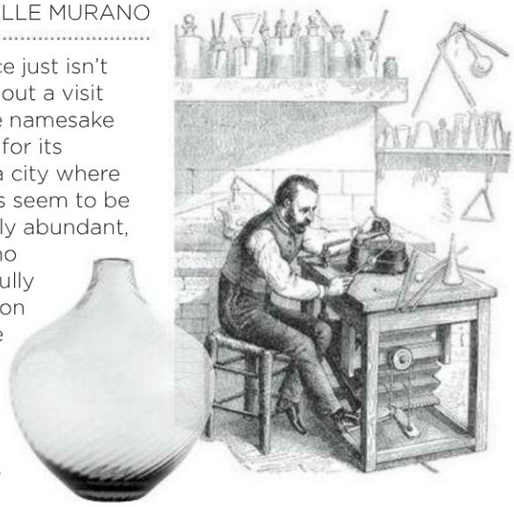
Venetia Studium is the exclusive producer of the original Fortuny lamps, coveted by the design world for their painted beauty and ornate quality. As unique as the lights themselves, this shop is a must-see stop on our list.

Calle Larga 22 Marzo 2403, venetiastudium.com.

SHOP ELLE ELLE MURANO

A trip to Venice just isn't complete without a visit to Murano, the namesake island famous for its glasswork. In a city where glass treasures seem to be overwhelmingly abundant, Elle Elle Murano carries a carefully edited collection of some of the finest mouth-blown pieces.

Fondamenta Daniele Manin 52, elleellemurano.com.



EAT TRATTORIA CORTE SCONTA

This trendy hidden gem is home to some of the freshest seafood dishes in the whole city. Try the clams-with-ginger antipasti or the scampi risotto. Even if you're not hungry, the grapevine-covered courtyard is the perfect spot to enjoy an afternoon glass of wine, or two.

Calle del Pestrin 3886, 041-522-70-24.

SHOP FABRIANO BOUTIQUE

From sleek leather notebooks to colourful rubber erasers, this fun stationery shop has it all. Stock up on its one-of-a-kind Swarovski crystal pencils and uniquely shaped paperclips, then proudly display them in your home office. Believe us, you'll want to!

Calle de l'Ovo San Marco 4816, fabrianoboutique.com.

TEXT, ERYN CHESNEY; ILLUSTRATION, EMILIE DESROCHERS; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (BAG, STATIONERY, VASE)

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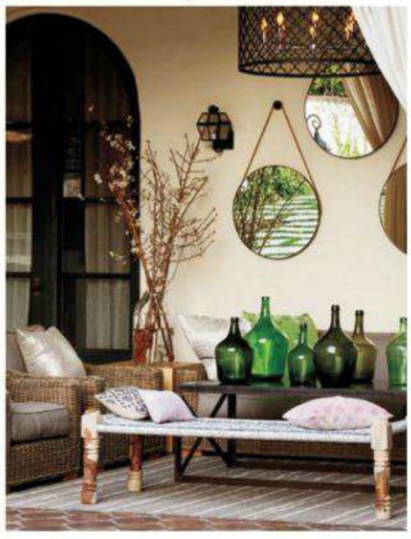

the inspiration

The oversized glass wine bottles in various shades of green lining the coffee table on the terrace of entrepreneur Shereen Arazm's Los Angeles home are of the vintage variety.

last LOOK

Every issue, we pick our favourite piece from one of the featured interiors. This month, we've selected these bottle-shaped vases, which appear in home-owner Shereen Arazm's LA home (see "Growing in Love," page 110). **Here's what you need to know.**

Green glass **VASES,** $13 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

WHY WE LOVE THEM

Vases are a decorating staple and the go-to object to fill an empty spot. The dramatic roundness and striking emerald colour of these vases are what caught our eye.

WHY THEY WORK

A modern take on the classic oversized wine bottle, this version is sleeker and more vivid in colour. These beauties can hold their own and don't require a floral touch.

WHERE TO USE THEM

For the biggest impact, group several of the same kind together or mix with other styles and sizes in varying green tones on a large surface like a coffee table or shelf.

PRODUCER, CATHERINE THERRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA; DONNA GRIFFITH (TERRACE)

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